

April • May • June

2006



# AMERICAL

## NEWSLETTER

DEDICATED AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO ALL VETERANS OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION

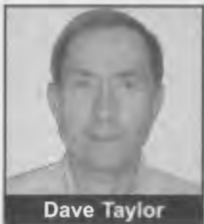
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The Vietnam  
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PRESERVING AMERICA'S FREEDOM: WORLD WAR II • KOREA • VIETNAM



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<b>AMERICAL NEWSLETTER</b>			
<b>The Americal newsletter is the official publication of the Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA). It is published each calendar quarter.</b>			
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Dave Taylor

Editor's Notes

Editor-In-Chief

Dear fellow Vets: Thanks for the many compliments we continue to receive about your newsletter. One Vet said it was "better than a newsletter, it is a magazine". Well, that may be true as far as the format we've adopted, but we don't want to lose sight of our primary goal, to keep ADVA members and associates informed of what is going on within the ADVA and chapters. So we will continue to have a combination of news about current ADVA events as well as stories of interest about our past.

Since I wear two hats, I want to take this opportunity to put on my other "hat", as World War II Historian. Please note the review on Page 11 about the WWII Museum in Worcester, MA. There are some very valuable and interesting displays there, memories donated by our WWII comrades through the years. We need to revitalize our museum, from outdated displays to a vibrant history that tells the important story of the Americal in the Pacific Theatre. This will be the last "campaign" of the WWII generation and when the time comes later this year to donate funds, I ask all Americal Vets to be as generous as possible. More detailed information will appear in the 3rd Quarter 2006 issue.

As I mention every issue, this is **your** newsletter so if there are additional areas of interest you would like to see let us know. If you have a suggested contribution, large or small don't hold back. Gary and I can help with the writing or editing. I would like to see more articles about the memories of your service in WWII and Vietnam. I'm sure all our readers will identify with those memories. Thanks for all your cooperation. Working together we are making the ADVA Newsletter an outstanding publication.



"Yesterday, the greatest question was decided which ever was debated in America; and a greater perhaps never was, nor will be, decided among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony, that those United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent States."

John Adams

"Then join in hand, Brave Americans all! By uniting we stand, By dividing we fall."

John Dickinson

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the services of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

Thomas Paine

"We are a nation of many nationalities, many races, many religions – bound together by a single unity, the unity of freedom and equality."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

"The U.S. Constitution doesn't guarantee happiness, only the pursuit of it. You have to catch up with it yourself."

Benjamin Franklin

"Government should uphold – and not undermine – those institutions which are custodians of the very values upon which civilization is founded: religion, education and above all, family."

Ronald Reagan

"The beauty of the second amendment is that it will not be needed until they try to take it."

Thomas Jefferson



Dave Chrystal

Chaplain's Corner

ADVA Chaplain

"April showers bring May flowers". We have all come to appreciate the spring for the return of life after the scenes of leafless trees and brown fields. When you get this newsletter the fields have become green and the trees are full. New life flourishes everywhere. As the Greek name indicates, the month of April was named after Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty (known by the Romans as Venus).

April was also known by the Hebrews as Nisan. It marked their release from bondage in Egypt and the grace of God in sparing the Israelites in the Passover. During the April Passover we also note the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians mourn that life was slowly drained from him but rejoice new life returned to the earth through his resurrection.

In all of this we note there is darkness which turns to light, barrenness which turns to life, despair which turns to hope. April is a very important time for us, a revitalization of the earth and a rebirth for all mankind. Carry that spirit throughout the year.



Cover

The new generation guards the traditions of the old. Chuck Carlock's generous donation to Texas Tech University Story on page 31

Letters to the Editor

World War II



Dear Editor:

My father was a member of the Americal during WW II and later joined the ADVA. He recently passed away and left us with his final request – to have his remains scattered over the place where he was listed as missing in action, presumed dead. That location is a volcano in the Philippines.

Fortunately for us he made it back to allied lines, but we always felt that he cheated death on that island. Have you heard of any way to make his last request become a reality? I contacted my congressman, but as everyone knows, the wheels in Washington turn very slowly. We thought, maybe someone in your association would be able to provide us with some information.

Kathy Kunkle

Dear Editor:

I would like to share some information about my father, Charles Benjamin Santosuosso. He served with the Americal in WWII. I would also like to find more information about his service to fill in some blanks in his story.

I found a picture of my dad with his group at Camp Edwards. The picture stated he was in Company M, 192nd Infantry, commanded by Capt. Roy F. Goggin. I read that Goggin eventually became a Lt. Col. In charge of the 182nd in Guadalcanal.

I'm at a loss because it seems that my dad was shipped out December 8, 1941 right after Pearl Harbor. We traced back he was on Efate and transported on the HMS Leander to Espirito Santo. It seems like a lot of time passed with no accounting of his whereabouts until he was billeted in Ballarat, Australia.

He then shipped out to New Caledonia where the 182nd was joined with the 132nd and 164th to form the Americal Division. There was more unaccounted time until the Guadalcanal campaign. He then got malaria and shipped home at the end of January 1943.

I would really like to know exactly what my father was involved with during this time period. He didn't talk much but did say that they were always on patrol and evading snipers. It seems like most of us waited too long to do our research, and our fathers did not want to share the experiences that they carried with them the remainder of their lives.

Steve Santosuosso

Dear Editor:

I have written a book that is now released in electronic and print formats. The book is titled, My Army Adventures. It discusses the origin of the Americal Division and action in Guadalcanal and other South Pacific islands.

More information and ordering instructions can be found at <http://books.lulu.com/content/222217>.

Arthur St. Germain

Vietnam

Dear Editor,

After reading the newsletter stories about humor in the military I had to write to tell a story of mine. I served with Co. B, 5/46th Inf., 198th LIB, from November 1968 until January 1970.

In January 1969 we started Operation Russell Beach south of Chu Lai. The Batangan Peninsula had been cleared of civilians and we were to be a blocking force for a Marine amphibious landing. The Vietnamese were gone but some of their animals were left behind. At night flares were dropped to help us detect enemy movement. From dusk to dawn the flares robbed Victor Charlie of the cover of

darkness. A problem occurred when we were not the only ones who thought it was dawn. A rooster left behind by the Vietnamese began crowing every time a flare was dropped. It did not take long before this response became irritating to us. The chicken soup was very good.

James Fuller  
Salem, OR

Dear Editor,

The Internet search engine GOOGLE has a collection of 1,383 placemarks for U.S. military facilities and battles in Vietnam. Almost every firebase is listed and many have links to websites and additional information.

Go to [www.earth.google.com](http://www.earth.google.com) and sign up to download the free EARTH program. I used dial up and it took six minutes.

Tom Skiens

Dear Editor,

I served in Vietnam in 1967-68. I was commo chief but worked mostly with the crypto section. I am trying to find out the names of several who lost their lives during that time, especially from Hq. Btry. I would also like to locate James E. Simmons from Conway, SC.

Harvey Lee Denton; Msgr. E-8 USA Ret  
Tazewell, VA. 24651

Dear Editor,

The years keep going by and I'm not that young fit guy who humped a 40-lb plus rucksack through the hills, mountains, and rice paddies of areas in and around Duc Pho. I often wonder how we did it.

Sleeping where ever in what ever. Salt crystals on our jungle fatigues from days of perspiration; feet that only saw daylight a few times a week. The centipedes, black scorpions, bamboo vipers, red ants, leeches and monster spiders; a tropical paradise.

Reminiscing is easy. Forgetting is impossible. Time is in a barrel. A barrel of memories. Often said, I would not trade those experiences for anything, but would not want to do it over again.

My son, who I think I raised well, is now an officer in the U.S.A.F. Mike just got accepted to Flight School. Yes, I'm proud of him. Military does give one maturity and character, purpose and direction. God be with him.

Now I would like to pass a message on to all veterans. If you are interested, write a letter to:

Department of the Army  
Board for Corrections of Military Records  
Arlington, VA. 22202-4508

Mail them a copy of your DD214 and ask if there have been any changes in your record. If there are, you will be informed and in time be given a "DD215" noting those changes. You will receive any additional medals or commendations due you. These awards will only be issued upon your request.

Robert J Miller; Co. A, 3/1st Inf., 11th LIB  
Farmington, NY

From the Editor, DD-214 Now Available Online

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following web site for Veterans to gain access to their DD-214 online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>. This may be particularly helpful when a Veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment or benefit purposes.

NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to download copies of documents from their military files. Military Veterans and next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the record center's mailroom processing time.

ADVA National Adjutant Notes

The year 2006 is moving along quickly! I hope to see many of you at the ADVA annual reunion in Portland. This will be an exciting location for the reunion with many cool activities planned for Friday and Saturday. It's also the chance to mingle and visit your unit buddies you have not seen since the Kansas City reunion.

As of this newsletter, the ADVA election for command positions and the Executive Council is complete. Unfortunately, the cutoff date for newsletter material was earlier than projected completion for final ballot counts. ADVA election results will be published in the third quarter newsletter. For those attending the Portland Reunion, the election committee will announce the voting results at the general membership meeting on Saturday.

Membership recruiting is vital to our organization. We have a nice recruiting packet containing a membership application, a history brochure and ADVA PX item list. The packet is a good ADVA recruiting tool for Americal Division Veterans attending your small unit reunions who are not members of the ADVA. Contact me if you need a supply of these recruiting packets for any upcoming event.

For annual pay members, be sure to check your renewal date in the address block on the back cover of this newsletter. The first line in the address block, under the postal bar coding, contains your membership renewal date. If the date shown on your newsletter is May06 or earlier, please send your dues payment to PNC Ron Ellis, Assistant Finance Officer. Ron's mailing address is listed on the outside back cover as part of the membership application form.

Your newsletter Editor, Dave Taylor, and I want to stress the importance of your address change notifications. After each newsletter and annual pay member mailing, we receive a number of undeliverable newsletters due to address changes. The United States Postal Service does not forward non-profit permit mailed items to the recipient, and the association gets charged \$.75 for each returned newsletter. Please notify me when you change your mailing address so the roster will be updated as soon as possible.

General correspondence and notice of address changes should be mailed to the ADVA National Adjutant P.O. Box in Richardson, Texas. The full address is listed inside the front cover at the bottom right corner of this page.

Roger Gilmore

National Adjutant

TAPS

World War II Veterans

101st Medical Regiment  
& Americal Div Band  
Howard "Pete" Terry  
Kalispell, MT  
July 28, 2005

Stanley Marwil  
San Antonio, TX  
March 14, 2006

182nd Infantry Regt.  
Vincent J. Rinella, Sr.  
H&M Companies  
Schenectady, NY  
March 14, 2006

World War II Widows

Mrs. Doyle W. Lewis  
San Antonio, TX  
Date Unknown

Unit Unknown  
Peter W. Kierbiedz  
Chester, PA  
February 9, 2006

Vietnam Veterans

SGM (Ret)  
Robert A. Kandler  
Glen Mills, PA  
February 22, 2006

247th Field Artillery  
PNC Alfred R. Doig  
Westwood, MA  
February 17, 2006

NEW MEMBERS

Paul E. Collins  
198th LIB HHC/4/31 Inf  
Clarksville, OH  
# PNC Gary L. Noller

Paul Guzie  
164th Inf Regt K Co.  
Gladstone, OR  
# Dave Hammond

Kevin D. Conway  
3/18th Arty  
Hull, MA  
# Self

David L. Gwilliams  
HHC Task Force Oregon  
Raymond, OH  
# PNC Gary L. Noller

Joseph E. DeFrank  
198th LIB B/1/6 Inf  
Belleville, NJ  
# David Taylor

Raymond H. Hughes  
23rd MPs  
Loves Park, IL  
# Rich Merlin

Eric Ecklund  
196th LIB A/4/31 Inf  
Stevens Point, WI  
# PNC Gary L. Noller

Carl R. Jacob  
196th LIB D/2/1 Inf  
Charles City, IA  
# Paul Szalkowski

Leonard Emmette  
198th LIB E/5/46 Inf  
Oak Ridge, TN  
# Jessie L. Helms

Kenneth A. Jones  
11th LIB B/3/1 Inf  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA  
# PNC Gary L. Noller

James P. Gray  
198th LIB C/1/52 Inf  
Cortlandt Manor, NY  
# PNC Gary L. Noller

Stephen A. Krasovetz  
635th MI Detachment  
El Paso, TX  
# Frank Moon



**Norman F. La Voie**  
164th Inf Regt G Co.  
Milford, CT  
# Self

**Kathy Lee**  
312th Evac Hospital  
Oak Grove, MO  
# David Taylor

**William P. Lyon**  
198th LIB A/5/46 Inf  
Vermontville, NY  
# Self

**Marvin A. Manning**  
198th LIB C/5/46 Inf  
Gainesville, FL  
# David Taylor

**Steve C. Preston**  
11th LIB 6/11 Arty Btry D  
Gig Harbor, WA  
# Gene Yeakley

**David Ratliff**  
523rd Signal Bn Co B  
N. Wilksboro, NC  
# PNC Gary L. Noller

**Everett E. Rice**  
198th LIB C/5/46 Inf  
Mountain City, TN  
# David Taylor

**Roger B. Ross**  
198th LIB D/1/6 Inf  
Caryville, TN  
# Jessie L. Helms

**Joe L. Schwartz**  
198th LIB C/1/6 Inf  
Dripping Springs, TX  
# Don Ballou

**Glyn W. Withrow**  
182nd Inf Regt HHC  
Garland, TX  
# PNC Gary L. Noller

Americal Vets are reminded the new dues structure is Vietnam Vets pay \$15/Year and WWII Vets pay \$12/year.

**NEW PAID LIFE MEMBERS**

**Brad Ailes**  
11th LIB B/16th Arty  
Daytona Beach, FL  
# Don Ballou

**Cliff Barger**  
11th LIB D/1/20 Inf  
Acworth, GA  
# Jim Buckle

**Peter M. Bramble, Jr.**  
Task Force Oregon  
Chesterfield, VA  
# PNC Gary L. Noller

**Slater Davis**  
11th LIB B/4/21 Inf  
Mableton, GA  
# Don Ballou

**Donald K. Winter**  
11th LIB B/1/20 Inf  
Richmond, UT  
# Self

**Lawrence P. Grabowski**  
11th LIB D/4/3 Inf  
La Grange, IL  
# Bernie Carroll

**Benjamin J. Rosalez**  
164th Inf Regt 1st Bn Co C  
Antioch, CA  
# Self

**Donald C. Rowe, Sr.**  
23rd MPs  
Culloden, GA  
# Rich Merlin

**James H. Tessitore**  
198th LIB HHC/1/52 Inf  
Hockessin, DE  
# Dan Young

RE-INSTATED MEMBERS

**Harris Bonnell**  
1st Bn 82nd Arty  
Haleiwa, HI  
# Don Ballou

**Donnie J. Frazier**  
198th LIB A/1/6 Inf  
Brighton, TN  
# Don Ballou

**Samuel J. Maggio**  
198th LIB A/1/6 Inf  
Wheaton, IL  
# Self

**Phillip J. Walker**  
198th LIB A/1/6 Inf  
Melbourne, FL  
# PNC Bernard Chase

**Tyler J. Harper**  
196th LIB, C/2/1 Inf  
Edmond, OK  
#Bill Bacon

**Franklin F. Reiner**  
11th LIB A/4/21 Inf  
Zion, IL  
# PNC Rollie Castronova



**Please Remember: We update our ADVA mailing list every three months before each newsletter mailing. Please notify us of any temporary or permanent address change, to eliminate returned newsletters and address change notifications, which cost us (the ADVA) money!**


FAR WEST CHAPTER

**COMMANDER**  
**Richard A. Merlin**  
Riverside, CA 92503

**SEC/TREAS**  
**Gene McGrath**  
Pahrump, NV 89048

**Vice Commander**  
**Sergeant-At-Arms**  
**Chaplain**

**John Bowley**  
**Curt Rothacker**  
**Pat Tognoli**



**2006 Elections**  
This year our chapter will hold elections for the offices of Commander, Vice-Commander, Secretary-Treasurer and Sergeant of Arms for the 2006-2008 term. The incumbent Commander has served for two terms for a total of 4 years and the Secretary-Treasurer for three terms for a total of 6 years. It is time for a change and a wonderful opportunity for more members to get involved. Please contact one of our Nominating Committee members: gene McGrath at [redacted] or Curt Rothacker at [redacted] to put your name on the ballot. If we do not get a full slate of candidates we will have to institute the "draft". Thank you.

**Chapter Dues Reminder**  
Some chapter members still need to pay their dues of \$10 for 2006. Dues are paid on a calendar basis, and no statements are sent. Members who have not paid yearly dues for the current year will be dropped from the chapter roster and mailing list.

Please remember to pay your dues so you can keep receiving chapter mailings about reunions and the chapter newsletter, the Cannon. Payments should be sent to Gene McGrath, Chapter Secretary-Treasurer. Thank you for your support.

**Change of Address**  
If you have a change of address or telephone number, please notify our Secretary-Treasurer Gene McGrath. Keeping our roster up to date will insure you receive the newsletter and all other mailings. Thank you.

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAPTER

**DC DE KY MD NJ NY OH PA VA WV**

**COMMANDER**  
**John "Jay" Flanagan**  
Cranford, NJ 07016

**VICE COMMANDER**  
**Conrad Steers**  
Hicksville, NY 11801

**SECRETARY**  
**Joe Tunis**  
Lake Ariel, PA 18436

**TREASURER**  
**Mark Deam**

Visit our web site at:  
<http://home.who.rr.com/sidneyalum/advaerc/>



**2006 Chapter Reunion**  
Our reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn in Ronkonkoma, New York on Long Island, October 19-22. The hotel cost is \$99/night plus tax. For reservations call [redacted]. The hotel address is 3845 Veterans Memorial Highway, Ronkonkoma, NY. Please make reservations by September 25th!

Vets can fly in to the McArthur Airport in Islip, NY, which is about 3 miles from the hotel. Major attractions are as follows:

- **Friday:** All-Day Excursion is \$85/person. Cradle of Aviation and the Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium.
- **Saturday:** All-day shopping at \$29/person for the bus and a discount booklet or All-day cost for the Atlantis Marine World is \$49 / person.
- **Saturday Banquet:** Our annual banquet will be at the hotel Saturday evening at \$30/person. Anyone with questions can contact **Connie Steers, Chapter Vice-Commander.**

**Chapter Dues**  
Chapter dues notices were sent out in January. If you haven't already paid them and aren't paid ahead, please take care of this soon.

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

**COMMANDER**  
**PNC Roland Castronova**  
4 Stone Drive  
Peabody, MA 01960

**Chapter Will Close & Realign**  
By the due date of January 30th our 2006 Chapter dues mailing to 450 members yielded 5 checks. In the Jan-Feb-Mar issue of this National Newsletter I mentioned if we did not get more interest we would close the New England Chapter and consolidate with the Eastern Regional Chapter. As of this date I have only received one more check for a total of six. It is time to recognize the realities of the lack of interest to have a regional chapter and consolidate with a stronger chapter, for the good of those New England Americal Vets who would like to have some affiliation on a regional basis.

I have spoken to the Eastern Region Chapter Commander, Jay Flanagan, and he said they are happy to have us join their ranks. I cannot make the National Reunion in Portland but Jay will indicate to the Executive Council the intent to merge the two chapters. After that I will send Jay our chapter database and the remaining \$660 of chapter funds. This process does not mean that in the future, if there is enough interest to restart a New England Chapter that it cannot be done. Anyone in the chapter who wishes to discuss this with me can contact me at [redacted].



**ARTHUR R. WOOD**  
**SOUTH EAST CHAPTER**  
AL FL GA NC SC TN

**COMMANDER**  
**Paul Stiff**  
[redacted]  
Port Charlotte, FL 33949

**SEC/TREAS**  
**Allen Feser**  
[redacted]  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757



As our newsletter staff prepares the 2nd quarter issue, we have just completed our Annual Chapter Reunion, which coincided with the 19th Annual Vietnam Veterans reunion in Melbourne Beach, Florida, April 27-30, 2006, at Wickham Park.

We had 35 chapter members attend and many more Americal Vets from other parts of the country. A good time was had by all!



**"Together Again", at the Americal Campground Headquarters, Melbourne, Florida Vietnam Veterans Reunion, April 27-30, 2006.**



**Bob Kapp's "Rolling Bunker" (RV-Type to the left) with "Poncho Shelter". They were more comfortable than his first shelters in the Nam.**

**GREAT LAKES REGIONAL CHAPTER**

IL IN MI MN WI

**COMMANDER**  
**John Mathews**  
[redacted]  
Verona, WI 53593

**ADJ/FIN OFF**  
**Terry Babler**  
[redacted]  
New Glarus, WI 53574



Our annual "Operation LZ-Oceanside" at Melbourne, Florida, to coincide with the annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion there, was another rousing success. Our ADVA Chapter joined forces with the 1st/1st Cav Association, Vietnow National and the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Chapter 3 to have a series of activities during the days leading up to the Melbourne Reunion weekend. By our count over 80 Americal Vets were at the Melbourne weekend.



**John Mathews holds a captured "VC Gator" at The Great Lakes Chapter annual "Gator Patrol" held near the Melbourne, Florida Vietnam Vets Annual Reunion.**



**Americal Vets having a good time (left to right) Ed Martell, Terry Babler, Bob Kapp.**

**"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Comrades gather because they long to be with men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity."**

**23rd Recon Company**, Americal Panama will have a reunion in Warsaw, Indiana on July 7-9, 2006. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hampton Inns and Suites at 3328 East Center Street, in Warsaw. Their phone is: 574-269-6655. Tell them you are with the 23rd Recon Reunion for a rate of \$70. Friday night and Saturday festivities will be held at the home of Doris Miller at 9264 West Harper Lake Road, Kimmell, Indiana. Point of contact is L.T. Doutrich (407 Oak Street, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281), Phone: 330-336-9468. E-Mail: [LTDUSARET@aol.com](mailto:LTDUSARET@aol.com).

**The Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans** will hold the 64th Anniversary Reunion of that campaign on August 4-7, 2006 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Arlington, VA. The GCV membership consists of members of the USMC, USA, USN and USCG whose service from August 7 1942 to February 9 1943 was in the Air, Land and Sea in and around Guadalcanal. For more information, contact Gordon W. Morgan, President at [redacted]

**164th Infantry Regiment**, Americal Division WWII. Annual Reunion in Valley City, North Dakota, September 15-16-17, 2006. Reunion Chairman is Bernard Wagner, 164th Infantry Association President. For more information contact Patricia Drong, Reunion Secretary / Treasurer, [redacted] or [redacted]

**3rd/1st Inf.** (Hawaii / Vietnam, Jun 1966-Dec 1968) will be meeting on October 13-16, 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information contact Tim Cook, 911 4th Ave E., Williston, ND 58801. Phone is: [redacted] or e-mail: [redacted]

**ADVA Eastern Chapter 2006** Reunion will be October 19-22 in Ronkonkoma, New York (on Long Island) at the Holiday Inn. Price for the hotel is \$99 / night. Reservations can be made by calling (631) 585-9500 and mention the Americal Eastern Chapter. The hotel is at 3845 Veterans Memorial Highway. Please make reservations by September 25th. The web site for the Holiday Inn is: [www.holiday-inn.com/ronkonoma](http://www.holiday-inn.com/ronkonoma). Vets can fly in to the McArthur Airport in Islip, NY, which is only about 3 miles from the hotel. Lots of things are planned, including the "Cradle of Aviation", Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium and Atlantis Marine World. Reunion Chairman is Connie Steers, [redacted]

**Americal Trivia**



Did you know that the Americal was formed as a Task Force in WWII because its list of units did not resemble an Army Division of its time?

Did you know the Americal was the first Army Division ever organized outside the USA and the first Army unit (164th Regiment) to engage the enemy in WWII?

Did you know the Americal Army Division was formed twice outside the United States, each time originating from a Task Force (TF 6814 - WWII and TF Oregon - Vietnam)?

Did you know the Americal was formed in both WWII and Vietnam with the original intent to help the US Marines, who were stretched thin in the South Pacific (and Guadalcanal - WWII) and Southern I Corps (Vietnam)?



# The WWII Museum: Time for Modernization

by David W. Taylor

## A Time for Change

Last fall the National Commander appointed me – as ADVA WWII Historian – to be the Acting Curator of the Americal WWII Museum (located on the 2nd floor) at the Salisbury St. Armory, in Worcester, Massachusetts. I arranged a visit and meeting at the museum on March 21, 2006. Jim Buckle was the only WWII Vet able to make it. We did however, have others attend who share the same passion to preserve the Americal WWII history and we had a very productive meeting.

## Areas of Concern

Coordinating the meeting was Colonel (USA-Ret) Leonid (Len) Kondratiuk who is Director, Historical Services for the building our museum resides in (Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum). The major areas of concern are the following:

- No formal relationship exists between the ADVA and the Massachusetts State Adjutant General's Office, which owns / operates the building.
- No inventory exists of the Americal holdings (photos, items, etc.) at the museum.
- Display cases are outdated and insufficient.
- Furniture and the general appearance of the museum are outdated (1950's look).
- There are items that do not fit with the objectives of the museum (i.e. European Theatre materials, non-war items such as toy models of civilian aircraft, etc.).
- Americal Vietnam materials on display detract from the focus of World War II and take up valuable space for expanding the WWII collection.
- The museum shows "stuff" but does not tell the story of the Americal in WWII.

## A New Beginning

I have formed a "Museum Advisory Committee", which will be small, but energized:

1. **Len Kondratiuk** (Belmont, MA) – Len is the full-time Director of the building and oversees the Military Historical Services and Archives for the State of Massachusetts. Before retirement Len served in the Pentagon and oversaw the National Guard History Branch.
2. **Jim Buckle** (Harwich, MA) – Jim is known to all in the ADVA for the many roles he has performed for the association.
3. **Carole Fonseca** (Edgartown, MA) – Carole is the daughter of David Fonseca, the Americal soldier who named the "Americal" Division. Carole has extensive background on the Americal and wishes to insure their WWII legacy is secure.
4. **Victoria Granacki** (Chicago, IL) – Vicki is the daughter of Leon Granacki, the Americal soldier who designed the Americal shoulder patch. Vicki is the Principal of Granacki Historic Consultants, a firm that evaluates the architectural and historical significance of buildings.
5. **Nancy Murphy** (Milton, MA) – Nancy is the daughter of Americal Vet Maurice Sullivan. She and her extended family are very knowledgeable of contacts and expertise in building repair and refurbishing services in the New England area.
6. **David W. Taylor** (Medina, OH) – ADVA WWII Historian, Acting Curator for the Americal WWII Museum and Editor-In-Chief of the ADVA National Newsletter.



Americal WWII Museum is located on the 2nd floor of the Worcester, MA National Guard Museum.



Advisory Committee for the revitalization of the museum (left to right): Len Kondratiuk, Carole Fonseca, Jim Buckle, Dave Taylor, Nancy Murphy (Vicki Granacki not pictured)



ADVA members will be kept informed of our efforts to modernize the WWII Museum through the national newsletter. Phase I covers the balance of 2006 through June 2007.

- Vision & Mission Statement for the Museum – by April 30, 2006
- Inventory of holdings - to be completed by May 30.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ADVA and Massachusetts National Guard State Adjutant General (the roles between both regarding the museum) signed by the new ADVA National Commander, by July 30, 2006.
- Museum Redesign Proposal – (Prepared by the School of Museum Design, Tufts University), proposal by June 15 and committee final approval by August 15, 2006.
- Transfer of Americal Vietnam Holdings to Texas Tech's Vietnam Archive (TTU-VA), Lubbock, Texas, by August 30, 2006. Where the original donor is known they will be transferred in their name. All other will be donated in the name of the Americal WWII Museum. TTU will pay for all shipping costs and will digitize all materials for the records of the ADVA.
- Removal of Non-Americal Holdings (WWII European Theatre, non-war items, etc) by August 30, 2006. Items may be transferred to another museum (for a fee) or sold to help raise funds for the museum.
- ADVA Fund-Raising Campaign for modernizing the WWII Museum will be in the Oct-Nov-Dec time frame. Executive Council approval by August 30, 2006.
- Modernization work will take place in the first half, 2007. How much gets completed will be dependent upon how much money is raised. We expect the basic modernization to be completed in the first 6-8 months of 2007.

## Phase II And Beyond

We anticipate an annual fall fund-raising drive within the ADVA for the upkeep and expansion of the museum. Future plans include ... a separate web site for the museum, with a link to the ADVA site; digitizing all the museum's holdings for a virtual archive for researchers; documents at other sites, such as the University of North Dakota (164th Regiment documents) will ultimately be copied and added to the archives of the Americal Museum. Please contact me if you wish to donate items or documents to the museum. Until the modernization is complete we will make other arrangements to store donated materials, rather than hold them at the museum. My contact information: David W. Taylor, 970 Kenner Drive, Medina, OH 44256-2908. Phone: (330) 723-2517. E-mail: dwtaylor@ohio.net. I encourage our WWII Comrades, their families and our Americal Vietnam comrades to consider making a generous donation in the fall fundraising campaign, to this worthy cause. 🇺🇸



Existing display cases and display procedures are out of date. They do not tell the story of the Division in WWII.

Americal Vietnam-era materials will be sent to Texas Tech's Vietnam Archives with a digitized record for the ADVA.

Museum modernization will enhance the proud tradition of the Americal in WWII



## In The Beginning: Ameri - Cal

by David W. Taylor



**D**avid Fonseca's roots could have been a foretelling of his life of challenge and discovery of himself. His direct ancestors were Sephardic Jews who settled on the fringes of the Mediterranean in Spain. During the Spanish Inquisition and the great Exodus, his ancestors eventually found their way to America.

In his beginning, Fonseca was born in New Haven, Connecticut, and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts. At a very young age his parents divorced and he and his brother were placed in a home because his mother could not afford to feed them. His father retrieved them when he later remarried. Like many in his day he joined the National Guard to make some extra money. In September 1941 he married and proceeded to build a life together and raise a family – a family that would have the roots he did not have as a young child. He worked in a drug store until the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred on December 7th and his life, like many others, would undergo a profound change.

Fonseca was called to active duty as a Private with the 26th Signal Company, where he served as a cook. He departed New York as part of Task Force 6814 on the USS Thomas A. Barry. As the task force left New York and steamed off to war Fonseca's constant thoughts were of his new wife he left behind and the new life he wanted to have – now snatched from him because of a nation's lust for empire.

After the task force sailed past Havana, Cuba Fonseca wrote in his diary on January 27th, 1942, "... Dear Wife, kept looking at your picture today and kept thinking how far away I am and trying to guess how long we will be parted. Eating well but would rather be with you eating a crust of bread." On January 29th, "...I guessed right, we are going to Australia. It looks like I won't see you for two years. We can pray for this war to end sooner." On February 2nd, "...several days out in the Pacific. Hot as hell. Oh how I miss my wife and home, kind of dreary waiting and knowing that I won't be home for at least two years. We will win but everyone yearns to be home." On February 5th, "...I don't think I appreciated you enough or showed you enough affection when I was home. But I will make it up for the rest of my life." February 7th, "...always thinking of you darling. Will never want to roam when I get home."

The task force steaming to war did not fit the "Triangularization" of Army divisions of its day so no numbered division was assigned to Task Force 6814. Therefore, once it arrived in New Caledonia its Commander, Major General Alexander Patch sought out suggestions for a division name to replace the task force designation.

In New Caledonia PFC David Fonseca felt isolated on the other side of the world. He found the heat, mosquito's and primitive conditions almost unbearable. He thought of the word "American" and the strange place he was in, "Caledonia" and put them together making the word, "Americal". He submitted the name and Patch liked it and submitted it on to Washington. The name was approved and that designation became official in the following General Order: "HEADQUARTERS, UNITED FORCES IN NEW CALEDONIA: Pursuant to instructions contained in War Department radiogram dated 26 May 1942, and under authority of letter A.G. 3202, Subject: Constitution and Organization of Americal Division, dated 24 May 1942, United States Army, offices of this command have been constituted the Americal Division without numerical designation."

Fonseca was discharged as a Sergeant on July 16, 1944. When he returned from the war he, like many, was a changed man. His daughter Carole reflects, "My mom told me when he returned he was not the man she married. This is because of all the horrific things the men were faced with, similar to those who returned from Vietnam." Carole notes that in a diary her father kept he wrote that, at night even the men in the "rear" could not sleep because of the threat of the Japanese. The enemy was so quiet as they crept through the jungle that they were afraid of getting a bayonet stuck in them. She notes a wet spot on that diary page resembles a tear that trickles down the page through the blue lines.

After the war David Fonseca became a salesman for Helene Curtis, the beauty supplies company. Then he became a cook for the Massachusetts State Hospital and later worked in the Azores for two years as a cook for a company that was building aircraft landing strips. When he returned from the Azores he found a job with the Brock Candy Company. Not able to make a decent living in that job he went to Labrador for a year as a cook for another contractor building aircraft landing strips. Fonseca eventually became the head chef at Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts. The Fonseca's raised two daughters. His daughter Carole remembers, "It was difficult for him to express himself to us, to show his love. But although he never made a lot of money, what he did make he would spend on us. And he would also go out of his way for others. He had a good heart and was a good person."



**"The name 'Americal' was submitted April 23, 1942 and officially recognized by the War Department May 27, 1942. The name AMERICAL was submitted because we were organized as a Division in New Caledonia, denoting, Americans in Caledonia. We are the only Army Division without a numerical designation."**

**Sgt. David Fonseca,**

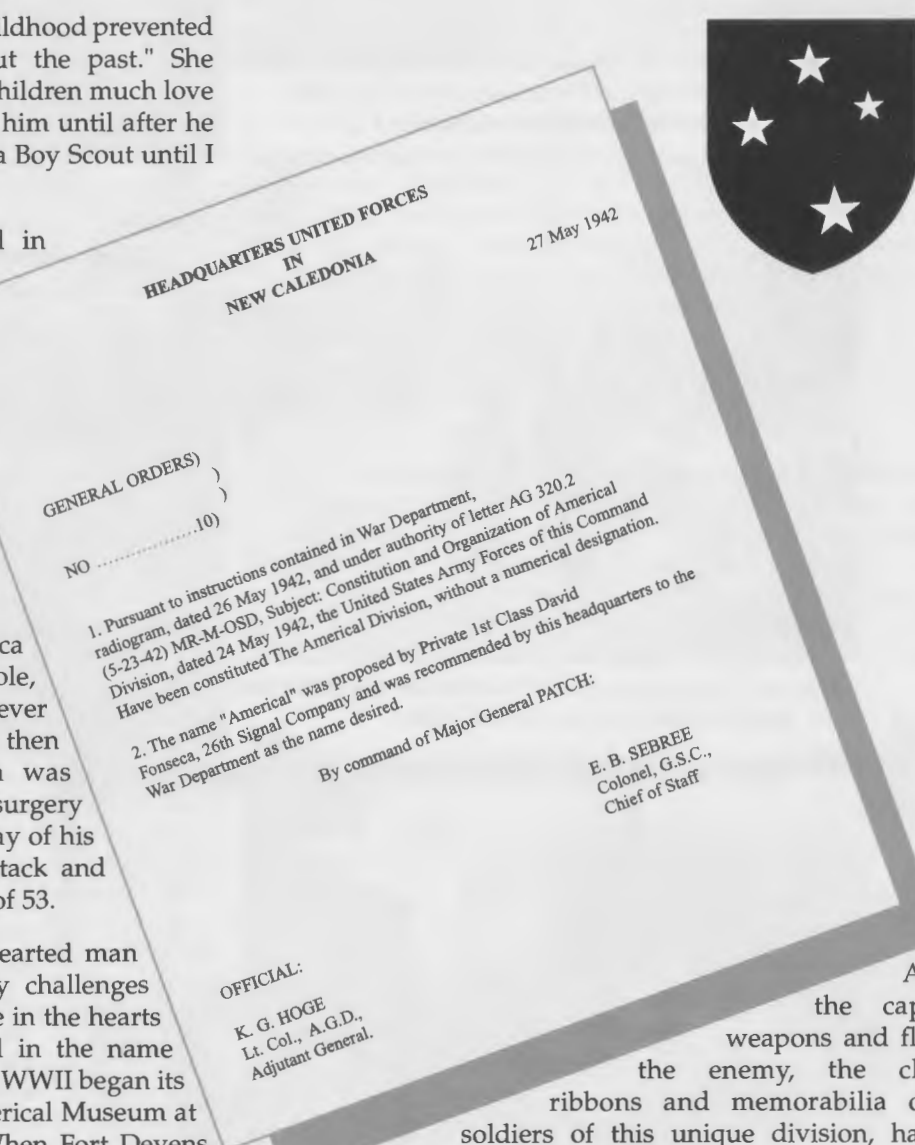
**letter to Liberty Magazine, January 18, 1944**

His war experience on top of his tough childhood prevented him, I think, from talking to us about the past." She continues, "But he was able to show my children much love and affection. I never really got to know him until after he died. For example, I never knew he was a Boy Scout until I found his achievement cards."

David Fonseca became very involved in service to others. He was a Mason and a member of the Odd Fellows. And he became very involved with the Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA). Carole remarks, "He loved the ADVA and, with the tough childhood he had, he was very proud to have created the name 'Americal'. In all his service projects he always took the bull by the horns and got things done."

During his middle years Fonseca developed diabetes. His daughter Carole, remembers, "He loved to eat but he never watched his diet. He would lose weight then regain it." In February 1970 Fonseca was paralyzed from the waist down during surgery for his diabetes. Ten weeks later to the day of his surgery, he suffered a massive heart attack and died, on April 17, 1970 at the young age of 53.

The legacy of David Fonseca, a good hearted man who did his best, despite facing many challenges before, during and after the war, will live in the hearts of his children and grandchildren, and in the name "Americal". The legacy of the Americal in WWII began its enshrinement in the Fonseca-Goslin Americal Museum at Fort Devens in Ayre, Massachusetts. When Fort Devens was deactivated in 1996 the Americal Museum was moved to Worcester, Massachusetts, as part of the Massachusetts National Guard Military Museum, where the Americal holdings occupy the second floor.



OFFICIAL:  
K. G. HOGE  
Lt. Col., A.G.D.,  
Adjutant General.

Among the captured weapons and flags of the enemy, the clothes, ribbons and memorabilia of the soldiers of this unique division, hangs a picture of the soldier who gave an Army division its identity. David Fonseca had given an identity to an organization at war, before and after his life's journey to find his own.

## Remembering the Cebu Campaign

David W. Taylor



Americal soldiers pushed quickly up to Cebu City, but beyond the city the fighting became intense.

These images alone do not tell the whole story of the heavy fighting during the Cebu campaign but serve to remind those who fought there of the many challenges they faced.



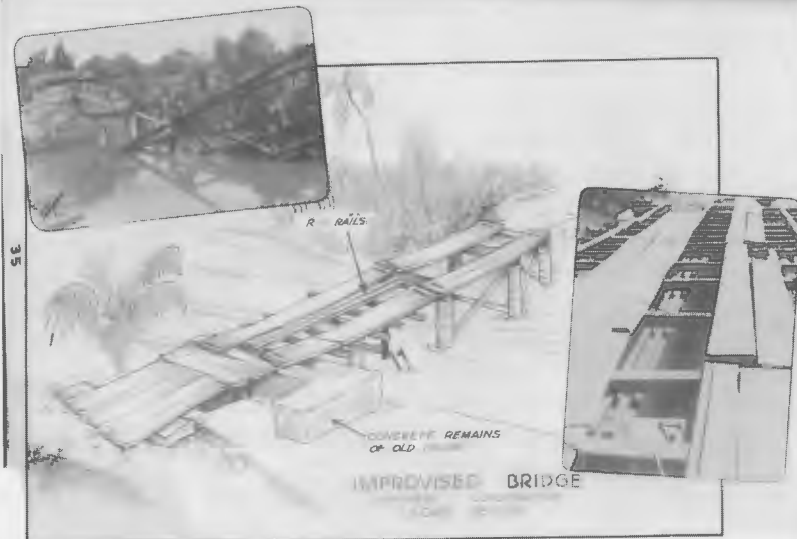
Cebu City was heavily damaged as the Japanese retreated into the hills beyond.



Grateful Filipino's greeted the American liberators as they passed through many small towns.



The price of freedom.



Nearly all the important bridges were either destroyed or damaged by demolitions. Shown here is the Gubay River Bridge above Liloan on Route #1, which was completely destroyed. A crudely constructed bridge was built by the Japanese and used in their evacuation north of Cebu City. This improvised bridge was replaced with a 30-ton capacity bridge by a platoon of engineers in 16 hours.

Credits: Photos taken by Armand Levy (182nd Regt.) and provided by his daughter, Alexis Gable; Bridge drawing from the document, "Mines, Booby Traps and Obstacles on Cebu, Philippine Islands" provided by Siegal "Bob" Varner.

## Our Cebu Surrender

Bonnie Allen & Kelly Lundy



Far Left S/Sgt Bonnie L. Allen (Photo: B.L. Allen)

Right Cpl. Kelly B. Lundy (Photo: K.B. Lundy)

S/Sgt. Allen took charge of the group and Cpl. Kelly Lundy was second in command. The other members of the patrol were: Cpl. Melvin Stinnett, Cpl. Rex Dunlap, Cpl. Daniel Raymond, PFC Billy Mills, PFC Kenneth Pearce, PFC Emil Pourroy, PFC Bruce Rook and PFC Richard Doramus.

Shortly after Moore had left, Allen took another patrol, departing San Fernando by truck and driving as far as possible to the mountains. Setting out on foot they walked for 3-5 miles into the rugged terrain, when the captured Japanese Major stopped the patrol. He knew that Japanese lie ahead in hiding, and he wanted to move forward alone. Allen reluctantly allowed him to go ahead and, after some time he returned advising the sergeant that he had made contact with a Japanese sentinel. The Jap Major related how he had told the sentinel who he was and that there were American soldier's that wanted to talk to his commander. The Japanese Major again returned alone to the sentinel and was escorted to a Japanese Colonel, in charge of the remaining holdouts in the area. Returning once again to the patrol, the Japanese Major told S/Sgt. Allen the Colonel would allow two soldiers to enter their headquarters under a truce, but were to leave their weapons behind.

S/Sgt. Allen and Cpl. Lundy give their rifles to their men with instructions to wait and were escorted into the Japanese camp where they met by another Japanese officer. The officer then led Allen and Lundy to the upstairs of a building where they entered a large room. Sitting behind a desk was a tall Japanese Colonel. He introduced himself, shook their hands and began to question the G.I.'s about Japan's surrender.



Patrol Command Post - Municipality Building, San Fernando, Cebu (Photo: K.B. Lundy)

On April 14, 1945 the 746th AAA Gun Battalion received verbal orders from the CG, 8th Army to be attached to the Americal Division and move to Cebu Island. Their mission was to reinforce the field artillery of the Americal, which was encountering stiff resistance from the Japanese. The 746th participated in the Cebu Campaign from March 26 to July 1, 1945.

On the evening of September 14th, 1945, S/Sgt. Bonnie Allen of B Battery, 746th AAA Gun Battalion was in the battery's communications tent when a radio message came in. The message requested a detail of one officer and ten enlisted men for a patrol to make contact with a group of Japanese, in a section of Cebu Island. Allen was aware only that this group of Japanese soldiers were either not aware the war had just ended or were unwilling to acknowledge that fact and would continue to fight. Allen volunteered for the mission and assisted in the selection of the group that would go on the mission. Lt. Elmer Moore, who was popular with the men, was selected to lead the patrol with Allen as the NCO in charge.

Ten enlisted men under Moore's command left their unit on Mactan Island on September 16th with one jeep and one 1-1/2 ton truck, loaded with supplies, and proceeded to the western side of Cebu. They set up a command post in a municipal building in a small town. Also accompanying the patrol was a Japanese interpreter, Masami Fugimoto, who had been living in the Philippines at the onset of the war but was not a member of the Japanese military. The patrol also took a captured Japanese Army Major with them, to use as a credible source to talk to the hold-outs, if and when they could be located. The unit made numerous patrols and talked to many Filipino natives, asking if they had seen Japanese Army stragglers. The patrols were yielding no results so they moved to the East side of the island, establishing another command post in a municipal building in the town of San Fernando.

Daily patrols were conducted to different parts of the mountains surrounding San Fernando, where they once again questioned Filipinos in the area. From these villagers it appeared that Japanese were holding out somewhere west of the town. As the patrols continued, the battery headquarters requested that Lt. Moore be returned to the unit for out-processing back to the United States.





**Left: Japanese Interpreter, Masami Fugimoto**  
(Photo: K.B. Lundy)

If the POW Major was allowed to remain with the Colonel, it was a clear sign the Americans were in control. Then too, the Japanese Major could privately inform the Colonel of the humane conditions he had received as a POW. Nevertheless Allen and Lundy knew they were making their own rules, flying by the seat of their pants. With the arrangements set, the Colonel had his two American victors served some tea and fruit balls. Afterward, they all shook hands and Allen and Lundy made their way down the stairs, out of the compound and back to their patrol.

Once back at the town of San Fernando, SSG Allen contacted his headquarters, asking for the necessary trucks to transport the surrendering Japanese, some extra men to guard the Japanese and protect them against the Filipino's, some additional supplies, and an officer to accept the surrender. Allen and Lundy then contacted the local Mayor, Mr. Zacarias Villasan, and asked for the Mayors help with the local people, to avoid any confrontations with the surrendering Japanese.

The Mayor gladly agreed. The men were hoping they could actually protect the prisoners from the Filipinos as they promised the Jap Colonel. There were considerable bad feelings against the Japanese by the Filipinos in the area, due to Japanese raids on crops and livestock to feed themselves. As evening approached the two NCO's – now with roles as negotiating diplomats – worried whether the Japanese would simply move in the night to a more remote area or perhaps the Japanese would, as other groups had done, kill themselves in their headquarters, or blow themselves up with hidden hand grenades when they surrendered?



**Japanese Soldiers marching Out of Jungle to Surrender, West of San Fernando, Cebu**  
(Photo: K.B. Lundy)

Allen told him the war was over and they had been tasked to make contact with him and his troops, and convince them to surrender. The Colonel wanted to know under what conditions surrender was offered. Allen responded, "Unconditionally".

Allen had been given no instructions as to what the surrender terms would be, had his patrol encountered Japanese soldiers. Perhaps LT. Moore had been briefed on that subject, but nothing had been passed to Allen. Allen's response of "Unconditional Surrender" had been given more as a matter of hope, with no real conviction the surrender would actually take place. The Colonel accepted the Staff Sergeants terms. The Colonel's next question, of even more concern, was what protection he and his soldiers would be afforded of they surrendered their weapons. The Colonel's mind was clearly on the Filipino's whom he knew would kill him and his men if they were unarmed. Allen assured him that if he and his men would surrender to his patrol, they would have their full protection and transportation to a POW camp.

Allen and Lundy asked if they could take the sick Japanese soldiers back with them at that time and the Colonel politely responded, "no, thank you", that he would surrender all his men and arms at one time. Allen and Lundy asked how many soldiers the Colonel had to surrender, and he answered, "89 soldiers plus a 13 year-old mess boy". Allen, Lundy and the Colonel agreed on a time and place for the surrender, to take place the following day at 10AM. The Colonel then asked SSG Allen permission to let the Japanese POW Major stay overnight and come in the next day. The two junior NCO's, a Staff Sergeant and a Corporal, talked it over and agreed with the Colonel's request. Again, they were acting without any guidance and the voluntary giving-up of a field grade enemy POW officer was a matter of no little concern. Somehow, the practicality of what they were doing made sense.



**Japanese Surrendering Their Weapons**  
(Photo: K.B. Lundy)


Early the next morning the additional men and trucks arrived with two Lieutenants, Lt. William Price and Lt. Samuel Rothman. The junior officers were sent to satisfy the requirement of the Japanese Colonel, to surrender to a fellow officer. Under Allen and Lundy's guidance, the group proceeded to the site where the Japanese were to march to and surrender. About 30 minutes after their arrival the Japanese soldiers appeared out of the bush. One of the lieutenants went with SSG Allen and Cpl. Lundy to meet them. The Lieutenant was introduced to the Japanese Colonel who told the Lieutenant he was prepared to surrender his soldiers under the conditions agreed to with Allen and Lundy. The Lieutenant accepted their surrender and instructed the POWs to place their weapons in a pile. The POW's were then search individually, boarded on the trucks and were transported to the POW Camp south of Cebu City (Editors Note: This was the "Base S" Camp. See the 4th Qtr 2005 Americal Newsletter article on pages 24-25). Allen, Lundy and their small patrol returned to their battery headquarters, now also located in Cebu City, arriving on September 24th, 1945. Their mission had now been completed.

On September 29, 1945, the mayor of the town of San Fernando, and his town council, issued a resolution recognizing the brave act of the small American patrol of 10 enlisted soldiers, led by SSG Allen and Cpl. Lundy.

The Resolution recalled the havoc incurred by the Japanese stragglers hiding in the nearby hills, for the previous five months,



**Japanese Soldiers Have Been Searched And Are Waiting to be loaded on Arriving Trucks to be Taken to POW Camp.**  
(Photo: K.B. Lundy)

causing the Filipinos to live in fear. With gratitude to their American liberators, the resolution noted "the fleeing civilians have returned to their respective homes in the hills and begin to cultivate their farms, which had been neglected." The resolution ended with, "the people of San Fernando are very grateful to the fine and splendid achievement of these altruistic, tactful and diplomatic American liberators." 

*Editors Note:*

Although the small patrol of 10 enlisted soldiers risked ambush by superior Japanese forces who may not have known the war was over and that Allen and Lundy took a greater risk by walking into the Japanese camp unarmed, recognition for their feat was never given. Their battalion was busy rotating people home, and staff officers were readying the unit for final deployment. The only record of their achievement appears in the minds of those who participated, and most have now answered their final roll call. Tucked away are the photos of that event, which appear in this article, and the faded pages of a resolution proclaimed in a small Filipino town 60 years ago: "... with grateful thanks to the fine and splendid achievements of these American liberators."



**13 Year-Old Mess Boy (left) Captured With The Japs** (Photo: K.B. Lundy)



# My Americal Recollections

by Karl F. Kennedy Jr.



I currently live in Houston TX and I am 91 years old. These are my recollections of events related to my participation in the Americal Division. I'll only write what I can remember with my perceived accuracy.

I first heard of the Americal Division when I was called into the office of the battalion commander of the 2nd Battalion, 184th

Infantry Regiment, 40th Division who asked me if I was having a good time guarding the beach at Waikiki, Hawaii. I replied that I had no problems. He said we were losing Second Lieutenants on Guadalcanal and that I should report in one hour to a LST docked at Pearl Harbor to join (with 143 other Second Lieutenants) the 132nd Infantry Regiment of the Americal Division.

## Plus or minus, March 1943

I found the Landing Ship Tank (LST), which was to take us to Guadalcanal, docked opposite the Pearl Harbor Officers Club. The navy boys were pumping out the bilge before departure. They left the bilge pump running after the bilge was dry and they burned up the pump. For two weeks the navy removed the deck plates trying to repair the pump. In the mean time all 143-Second Lieutenants walked over to the officer's club at 11am in the morning and stagger back to the ship at midnight. Before the two weeks were up one of the officers was so looped he decided to take a swim between the ships and dove into the water. We threw a life jacket to him but he wouldn't grab it and a naval hand had to go down and pull him out. The LST captain was so amused he confined all of us to the ship and ended our daily visits to the officer's club. We finally got under way heading for Guadalcanal. We had another LST and a light destroyer escort with us.

After about a week rolling over the ground swells the other LST broke in half. The LST was carrying a Landing Craft Infantry (LCI) on the deck, which went into the water. The personnel on the stricken ship got on the LCI, some came to us the rest went to the destroyer. The destroyer sank the two halves of the stricken LST. There is no record of this sinking today in Internet based records. We had to line up along the port side of the ship at chow time. The diesel fumes from the ship blew in our faces so we weren't hungry when we got to the galley. We learned that since we had taken so long to get under way we were going to the Fiji Islands instead of Guadalcanal.

The 132nd Infantry was sent to Fiji to allow the 30% of the personnel to recover from malaria acquired at the "Canal". I was assigned to an infantry company in command of a platoon. We went through simulated jungle combat training using the Fiji natives who two generations before were headhunters. We trained at night using the Fijians as the enemy. One night we set up a perimeter to keep the Fijians out.

After a few hours I had a Fijian tap me on the shoulder and said "Hi Joe" and all I could see where the whites of his eyes and teeth since the Fijian natives are very black.

We had a Brigadier General in charge of training for the division. He was gray haired, appeared to be 60 years older or more. He had a walking stick, which was ornate and intimidating. He insisted on every man know the five F's (Find, Fix, Finish, Fend, Fight.) The General would come to the company street and have the company fall out for inspection. The General would go up to the dumbest looking private and have him recite the five F's. If the private couldn't recite the five F's the General would chew on the officer in charge. The General's philosophy was to have each GI know the five F's and intimidate the officer enough to see how he would act under duress. The general took command of our regiment some time later, on Bougainville Island; when the regimental commander was relieved of command because he couldn't handle the pressure.

## Plus or minus September 1943

A noncom from our regiment and I were sent to Guadalcanal to Coast Watcher's school after I was on Fiji for six months. The school was set up to teach us how to go to an enemy held island and report by hand held radios to headquarters the obstacles present that would affect a hostile landing. We flew in a C-47 (DC3) to New Caledonia passing over the Hebrides. We were supposed to refuel on the Hebrides, but did not because the Japanese were bombing. We dropped to the ocean level and turned off one engine to save gas. We landed at the Guadalcanal on the Marston Mat runway with about 7 inches of water.

The school was very interesting, conducted by coast watchers who were paid by National Geographic Magazine in peacetime. The idea was to learn the lessons so well we could flunk. We couldn't see much future in going to an enemy held island with native baggage carriers who were not friends of the natives of that island.

During our stay on the "Canal," we were invited to a 'Luau' on the island of Tulagi. The island was across the bay from Henderson Airfield. The natives had cooked some pigs in hot coals and then covered the hot coals with leaves and sand one day before.

I believe that the Coast Watcher instructors were responsible for the arrangements for the party. The islanders put on their native dances. Tulagi Island was very interesting because a volcano dominated it. The only livable land was limited to a narrow beach. On the "Canal", whenever a patrol went out they carried rolls of telephone wire for sound powered phone. As a result wires covered the ground like spider webs. Our Jeeps traveling down the roads would pick up the wire, which would wrap around the axle tight enough to stop the vehicle. The noncom and I returned to our regiment in Fiji.

## December 1943

The Americal boarded transport ships for Bougainville Island. We were to relieve the Marines who made the initial landing. We were supplied with all new equipment, jeeps, artillery, etc. which remained on board for the Marines to use in their island hopping going north.

The Marines had secured the west coast from the Torokina River, to the north end of the island. Our regiment was installed next to an aircraft runway. The 132nd and the 164th infantry regiments set up a perimeter around the airport and I believe 182nd infantry was in reserve. We had the Seabees Detachment plus other airport supply troops. Our mission was to protect the airport. Our initial assignment was to take over the Marine defenses pillboxes. The pillboxes were made of logs and dug in about four feet deep in a swamp. We had sleeping bags that would float, which was hazardous when the swamp water rose during the night. Japanese snipers fired at the floating sleeping bag making it more practical to get a little wet than getting shot. One day during this duty I got a telegram asking me if I would like to come to Florida to attend "Weather School". I sent a message back "Yes" but I never heard more about this subject.

We were relocated to a new company campsite that we were tasked to set up. The assigned location of the tents was in a heavy jungle hence we had to set up the tents between the trees. The solution to this was to contribute my bottle of scotch whiskey to a Seabee dozer operator who helped us clear the site. I got Scotch whisky from the "Officers Club" rations on the basis that rank has its privileges. Since I was a junior officer I got what the upper brass did not want. I developed a taste for Scotch whisky, which persists to this day.

We were involved in keeping the Japanese from taking over the airport. We went on daily patrols involving walking through the swamps south of the Torokina River. We developed a routine of watching the man in front of us so that when he sank below the swamp water we would pull him out by rifle held above his head as he started to sink.

After two weeks of patrols our clothes became moldy and we started to get 'Jungle Rot' with infected soars on our feet. The solution to this was to put our valuables in a rubberized bag, throw our cloths in a pre-dug pit, then take a rare shower. We got a new set of clothes on the other side of the shower.



Karl Kennedy in Hawaii, taken prior to deployment to the Americal.

Source: K. Kennedy

A healthy portion of sulfa powder took care of the foot jungle rot.

We enjoyed the news from Tokyo Rose that we were "lousy" jungle fighters because we eliminated the jungle by cutting the trees down with our half-track mounted 105mm howitzers. We shot metal scraps and cleaned out sniper-infested treetops. I had occasion to fly in an artillery observation plane (Taylor Craft) to contact patrols outside of radio range. Before takeoff we would arm 60mm mortar shells and carry them on our laps. If we saw a Japanese patrol, I would be the bombardier and the pilot would tell me when to drop the shell out of the window. When the Japanese realized they had been spotted they would fire at our plane.

We had established outposts along the shore of Torokina Bay. One day a "regular" army sergeant was digging a foxhole with a GI shovel. All that was in his hands was the folded head shovel when a Japanese soldier suddenly appeared wielding a samurai sword. Luckily he killed the Japanese and sat down and mumbled "I spent my life training for combat and end up killing my first Jap with a GI shovel."

We patrolled through many acres of tall grass along the banks of the Torokina River. The only way you could get through the grass was to follow the established paths. We could cut your way through the grass with a machete but that was exhausting. As a result, when using an established path we put out a fearless scout. He was in front of the patrol and we hoped the scout had quick enough reflexes to get off the first shot from his automatic pistol when he met a Japanese. We had a few fearless men who were from the streets of south side of Chicago.

One of our famous soldiers (soon to be officer) in the 132nd was a Staff Sergeant Freddie Caps, who would lead patrols outside the perimeter. When he was leading a squad patrol and encountered a Japanese camp he would pull back to a safe distance and draw a map of the Japanese deployment in the dirt. He would then attack the position with each man knowing his assignment. This technique resulted in total Japanese casualties and no casualties to us. Freddie Caps was given an officer battlefield promotion. Freddie was promoted to the rank of Major before he returned to the states.

We continued to get Japanese artillery fire on the airport from artillery positions on the west face of the volcano some distance east of our position. We set up observation posts in the tall trees. We noted the elapse time between the flash of the Japanese artillery and when we heard the sound of the round. We were able to call our artillery with the azimuth of the enemy and its distance from our location. We had one unfortunate incident where our artillery hit a friendly plane taking off from the airport.



We were fortunate to have native Fijians that came with us as scouts because they were used to the jungle. We used them as lead man on patrols and occasionally to get Japanese prisoners. The Fijians intimidated the Japanese captured prisoners so much they decided to talk when they were turned over to our control.

### December 1944

Four Australian brigades relieved us on Bougainville after a year. We boarded transport ships bound for Leyte in the Philippines, with a stopover at a port in Papua, New Guinea. When we went ashore in Leyte the island beachhead was already secured. We were on Leyte a very short time. We boarded a destroyer fitted to carry troops. LCVPs (Higgins's boats) were hung on sides of the Destroyer. I was assigned to be liaison, between our battalion and the battalion making the initial landing. We had a full complement of battleships firing on the shore installations before we climbed down the nets to the landing craft. The landing craft circled to form up in waves to approach the beach on the main island of Cebu. It was a spectacular sight to see a destroyer escort come in as close to the shore as he dared and fire a broadside of rocket fire into the beach.

I was in the first wave of landing craft to land on the beach. I followed the GI ahead of me, carefully stepping exactly where he stepped because we knew the beach was heavily mined from the appearance of the sand. I was to give the best location for our unit to land on the beach. A GI on my right as I approached the tree line had both of his legs blown off. He was yelling for me to shoot him. When I got to the tree line, I came to a road with a dazed looking donkey that had miraculously survived the bombardment. After one year of near constant fire on Bougainville, I don't remember receiving fire on the landing. My senses were numbed by duty on Bougainville and I don't remember being under rifle fire. My assignment was to get into the first cover and call by radio to battalion. According to historical documents, I was on one of five landing craft, out of fifteen that made it to the beach. I was awarded the Bronze Star medal for this action, and often wondered why; perhaps it was because I survived the adventure. When our battalion landed we moved north to Cebu City.

We spent a day in house to house fighting with a moderate amount of resistance. The Japanese retreated to the hills behind the Lahug Airfield north of Cebu City. We lost a few of our troops running across the airfield while receiving fire from the many cave mouths. I was with the troops running across the airfield and had people on both sides of me hit, which made me run faster.



Japanese Lugar Karl F. Kennedy obtained when detailed to collect weapons after war in Japan Yokohama area. Left side initials are K F Kennedy carved into wooden grip.

Source: K. Kennedy.

We asked for and received two 155mm antiaircraft guns. We made a range card of the hill giving a number for each cave mouth. We gave a copy of the range card to the gun operators and the spotters in the foxholes. The Japanese guns were on narrow gauge tracks that showed at each cave mouth. They would roll out a cart with an antiaircraft gun to effective fire against us. A spotter would call in a cave number, when he saw a cart appear at a cave mouth and the 155mms the artillery would blast cave mouth. A "sport" developed to chase a Japanese soldier as he ran from one cave to another, motivated from a 155mm shot just behind him. Just before he got to the next cave, the gunners would vaporize him with another shot. The Japanese had a lot of ammunition stored in the caves we were attacking. We had bulldozers cover up the cave mouths in an attempt to have the Japanese surrender, to no avail. The Japanese finally blew up the ammunition stored in the caves as well as themselves, as a last desperate act.

Unfortunately troops from Co A, 1st Battalion, 182nd were on the top of this hill, Go Chan Hill, and many were killed.

On August 28, 1945 the Americal Division commander accepted the surrender of the remaining Japanese on Cebu. Our next assignment after the finish of hostilities on Cebu was to board an amphibious 2-1/2 ton trucks DKWT (better known as Ducks) and proceed to the islands of Burias and Ticao and that was south of the main island of Luzon. The mission was to stop the rifle fire at ships passing through the Burias Pass and Ticao Pass. Passage to the islands was stimulating, to say the least, because the Ducks were not designed to take such long voyages. We arrived on the islands (as I recall) with little resistance. The islands were covered in sugarcane that burns easily. Our strategy was to light the cane with flamethrowers and kill or capture the Japanese as they came out of the fire. After this task was accomplished we returned to Cebu to prepare for the invasion of Japan.

I was S2 (Battalion Intelligence Officer) at the time, so I had access to maps and plans to invade Japan. We were on troop ships with combat packs ready to make the landing when the atomic bomb went off and Japan surrendered. Instead of landing on the southern end of Japan we pulled into Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945 and landed at Yokohama and were billeted at a Japanese airforce school facility. The facility was on a hill above Yokohama with an airport runway about as long as an aircraft carrier. Under the runway were caves that served as classrooms for Japanese air force students. Our first job on arrival at the airport was to pull US aircraft off the runway that were disabled. Many of the planes (1st Cavalry Airborne) had to ground loop (make a right turn) at the end of the runway to avoid going over the cliff.

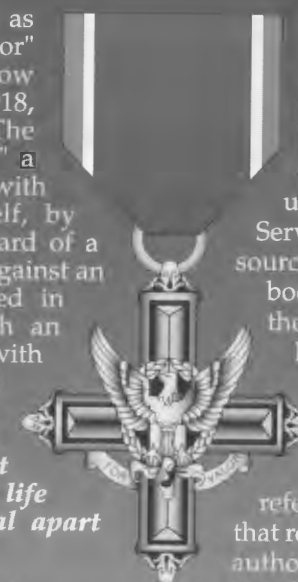
The Japanese had been ordered to place all artillery, rifles, and Samurai swords in the schoolyards to be picked up by US forces and dumped in Tokyo Bay. When we arrived at the children school they hid until one brave child came out and we gave her some candy. Later all the kids came out to get candy, which they had not seen for years. I had enough "points" to go home, having been over for forty-eight months, so I was able to fly back to the states, which I promptly did.

## Acts of "Extraordinary Heroism" WWII Americal Awarded 45 DSC

by Lawrence Schuermann

The Distinguished Service Cross, also known as the DSC, is the second highest award "For valor" bestowed to a soldier. President Woodrow Wilson established the award on 2 January 1918, for the benefit of WWI soldiers. The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to "a person who, while serving in any capacity with the Army, distinguishes himself or herself, by extraordinary heroism not justifying the award of a Medal of Honor; while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing or foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against opposing Armed Forces in which the United States is not a belligerent party." *The "act, or acts, of heroism must have been so notable, and involved risk of life so extraordinary, as to set the individual apart from his or her comrades."*

Perhaps, it is the last sentence, above, that truly defines the award of a DSC: "...Act/s of heroism so notable... involved risk of life so extraordinary... set the individual apart from his or her comrades."



During World War II the Americal Infantry Division was awarded 45 DSC's and one Navy Cross to its soldiers. The research required to find these awards has resulted in the tabulation of 40 individuals from the Americal Infantry Division and associated support groups. The author has utilized Alfred F. Gleim's book "Distinguished Service Cross awards for WWII" as the primary source of information. In addition, Francis D. Cronin's book "Under the Southern Cross" was utilized for those soldiers listed in the Honor Roll that are also listed in Alfred Gleim's book. A majority of the awards were straightforward by reference to the Americal, the 132nd/164th/182nd Infantry Regiments, or support group; however, many of the Americal awards only reference "Inf" as a unit/organization code, thus, for that reason, the last 5 awards have not been found. The author requests if any Americal veteran, or family member, is aware of a DSC award to an Americal soldier that is not listed below, or the below information is incorrect, please contact me for correction.

### World War II Americal Distinguished Service Cross Recipients



#### 182nd Infantry Regiment

DeCecca, Charles A. Pfc. 21Nov42 (P)  
Fotch, Arthur J. Jr. Pfc. 21Nov42  
Grotto, Anthony F. Pfc. 30Mar45  
Haffenreffer, Adolf F. Capt. 12Apr45  
McCarthy, James B. Cpl. 14Jan43  
McKinney, James W. Pvt. 11Mar44 (P)  
Nutile, John A. Pfc. 21Nov42 (P)  
O'Dea, Michael J. Capt. (1st Lt.) 28Mar45  
O'Rourke, David J. Capt (1st Lt) 10-12Mar44  
Pody, Henry C. Sgt. 10-11Mar44 (P)  
Rezny, Edward J. Pfc. 12Mar44 (P)  
Tofuri, Charles A. Sgt. 14Jan43  
Torres, Joseph R. Pfc. 14Apr45  
Woliansky, Harry 1st Lt. 2Oct44 (KIA 25Feb45)



#### 164th Infantry Regiment

Clark, William A. Cpl. 25Oct42  
Dowsett, William P. Cpl. 22Nov42 (P)  
Hall, Robert. LTC, Mar 8, 42 (Navy Cross)  
Jackman, Sail E. SSgt. 16Feb45 (P)  
Lockner, Louis W. Cpl. 25Oct42 (P)  
McCarthy, Kevin A. Sgt. (Cpl) 26Oct42  
Nokes, William A. Sgt. 20Mar45  
Shelley, Miles O. SSgt. 1Apr44 (P)  
Witte, Herbert H. Pfc. 2Dec42



#### 132nd Infantry Regiment

Bickwermet, Ervin M. Cpl. 2Jan43 (P)  
Dejml, Milan Sgt. 8Jan43 (P)  
Fiori, Angelo M. Pfc. 23&25Feb & 3Mar45 (P)  
Greese, Nathan Pfc. 2Jan43 (KIA later as SSgt)  
Johnson, George R. Pvt. 5Jan43 (P)  
Kras, Stanley B. Pfc. 2Jan43  
Krygowski, Edward J. Cpl. 2Jan43 (P)  
Lichowski, Edward J. Pfc. 2Jan43 DOW later)  
Pavlovich, Emil Pfc. 19Mar44 (P)  
Pearson, Floyd Pfc. 27Dec42 (P)  
Petrisek, Edgar TSgt. 23May45  
Schweikert, William R. 1st Lt. 2Jan43 (P)  
Wollard, J.C. Capt. 3Apr45



#### Americal Infantry Division

Graham, Lawton O. Pfc. 25Feb45  
Hendershott, Robert I. Jr. Pfc. 4Apr45  
Kinder, Wendel B. TSgt. 2Mar45

#### 245th Field Artillery Battalion

McInnis, John L. Pfc. 28Feb45

#### 21st Recon Troop

Gibler, Jack R. Pvt. 25Apr44 (P)

#### 57th Combat Engineer Bn

Blaisdell, Donald B. Pvt. 12Mar44



# A Long Vacation

(At Government Expense)

by Siegel "Bob" Varner

(Editors Note: This is part 2 of Siegel's memoirs that began in the 1st Quarter 2006 Newsletter. His story continues on the Island of Bougainville.)

Enlisted men usually got an allotment of beer but officers got the hard stuff. We got cigarettes, which I traded, candy bars – with and without worms – and sometimes Coke. The Coke, I think, was bottled in New Caledonia but the CO2 carbonation was lacking.

Our cooks, incidentally, were some of the "originals". They occasionally had their folks at home send the spices for spaghetti sauce and meatballs. To this day I have never tasted better. We had to post guards on our chow line when they were serving spaghetti. The other outfits tried to sneak in if we didn't. I just laughed to myself --- I was picturing the chow line when it rained. GI shorts, boots and helmet liners were quite a costume. Without a mess tent we had potato soup, corn soup, almost everything in the mess kit became soup. Speaking of food, probably the worst of the diet was the dehydrated eggs and Spam. Come to think of it, the axle grease we called oleo was pretty bad too. The cooks did make bread, which was good. I don't remember ever drinking the coffee, but I didn't at home either.

The enemy didn't seem to feel they could push us off the island so they were not hitting our lines as frequently as they had. We still had to patrol for insurance and for training purposes. One general developed a "PLAN" ... the "4F Plan": Find 'em, Fix 'em, Fight 'em and 'Fend 'em. Because most of the training was a repeat of basic training it got boring. When there was a call for volunteers to be trained as a "provisional" flame-thrower platoon, I responded and was accepted.

The Regimental Flame-Thrower Platoon (FTP) had just been in an action where a Medal of Honor was awarded to a Sgt. Drowley of the First Battalion. We had class sessions and field problems to learn "co-operation". I scored well on written tests so I became the flame-thrower operator for the provisional platoon. As a practical matter it was a silly thing to want to be. More often than not that person would be the MOST likely target for the enemy to shoot at, considering what a horrible death he could inflict. The ninety-pound weight did tend to slow one's movements and present a large target. To improve the operator's chances of survival, a technique was developed in which a spotter would go in to locate the pillbox. He would then fire a "Very Pistol" flare from his shotgun at the target and the operator could make a fast trip to finish the job.

The FTP was only called in when resistance was particularly difficult. My platoon was the most highly decorated platoon in the Americal Division. Almost everyone had a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, plus numerous Silver Stars, DSO's, DSC's and, I think, one recommendation for a Medal of Honor. In October 1944 I transferred to the FTP, where I was a "spotter" armed with a 12-gauge shotgun.

Later the platoon was disbanded and I returned to "T" Company.

Part of our future activities included beachhead, or amphibious training, landing on an enemy shore under fire. We had to climb rope ladders and learn how to descend from a ship some 30 feet high. To accomplish this a 25-foot tower was built on the lagoon and we had to jump about 20 feet into the water. This is where I lost my dog tags. From that point on I could only be identified by my bracelet that my girlfriend had given me. I think the rule was "no one goes into combat without dog tags." Our training was on board the HMS BATTLEAXE – British you know. It was so old we thought it might have been in the war of 1812. While training some of the guys liked fish so they went fishing using hand-grenades. It was a simple system: Pull pin, toss grenade into water, retrieve stunned fish.

Meanwhile, back at the war, the 37th Division was preparing to move to another island so the Americal was ordered to make a patrol in their sector. This included the NUMA-NUMA trail, a main supply route for the Japanese from the other side of the island. To get to the jumping-off point we were loaded on trucks and driven up the Numa-Numa River. Sometimes up the river and sometimes down the river these trucks were capable of handling most of the current but occasionally they were "escorted" by a bulldozer.

We bivouacked on the edge of one of the streams feeding the river. It was about 15 feet wide and as much as 8 feet deep. The current was so swift that you'd dive in, swim as fast as you could upstream and still be washed downstream. As cold as the mountain-fed streams were they still had leeches or bloodsuckers. When we got out of the water we had to use lighted matches to get them off, as many as 5 or 10 at a time. Speaking of lower life types, we always had to carefully check and empty our shoes every morning of scorpions and/or centipedes. They were as much as 10 inches long and quite poisonous. One or the other hospitalized some GI's because of a bite.

The patrol started out on a road, which was almost paved. We were a little heavier loaded than before because we were going to break connections with our base and outflank the Japs on the Numa-Numa Trail. We carried wire for phone connection and radios and extra ammo for ourselves and for our mortars. The trail itself was really a walking path through the jungle from one side of the jungle to the other. It was about 6-8 feet wide and followed the top of the ridge. There were a series of ridges, which were parallel to the main one. These had to be crossed up and down the other side, only to have another one just a little higher ahead. They got steeper and slipperier because it rained most of the time. The vegetation was wet all the time and when we stooped to rest we couldn't sit down without getting wet too. We had ponchos of course, but with the heat and high humidity it was just as wet either way. When we stopped for the night we couldn't dig in because it was suppose to be a surprise attack. If we were to dig in we could have leveled out a place to lie. But we didn't, so it was go to sleep in one place and, wake up down the hill a ways.

On the third or fourth morning we started up the last ridge and, after an hour or so, our platoon came across a trail. Word came back, "quiet" and a few minutes later BAR's, machine guns and rifles let loose. There didn't seem to be any answering our fire right away, which was strange. It turned out that the Japs who were manning the pillboxes covering the trail had just gone down the other side of the ridge and were preparing breakfast. If they hadn't been, we would have been slaughtered. The pillboxes were some of the best I had ever seen, considering construction, location, camouflage and fields of fire. The Americal History ("Under the Southern Cross") refers to it as the time we stole the enemy's pillboxes.

We had a self-contained medical unit (MASH) with us. Doctors performed surgery on wounded in the tent that was like a pup tent. They were only about 20 feet from my squad location. One of my friends from the FlameThrower Platoon went to "K" Company when the platoon was disbanded. "K" went left on the trail toward the bay when we went right. The patrol sent out by "K" ran into trouble and a few men were cut off. The Japs killed some, but at least one was captured. During the night, "K" could hear screams from one who was tortured. When his body was recovered later, the tattoos on his arms were gone – cut off. Yes, it was my buddy, Kenneth Lanier, from the FTP.

One of the least productive efforts I ever saw was just prior to leaving Bougainville. We were going to be transferred to a new command. This is an occasion for a big parade with all the brass, right? How do you look good with 15,000 men with 17,000 left feet? You practice. But to practice you need a large area. Large area – like an airfield – but planes are taking off and landing, so that's out. Well, except when the brass is all there. So what do we do? Simple, we blast a few thousand trees down – Rough bulldoze the clear land. (I still hear "fire in the hole!"). We used pound-blocks of dynamite to clear stumps. Funny, that we never blew ourselves up. We had our big parade at the airstrip and all the brass was happy – but it seemed like a lot of hours for just one parade. Actually it was a thrill to be in "Battalion Front" formation, marching as part of a thousand men. Fifteen or so groups that size can be impressive.

## Bougainville to Leyte

We got word to prepare for shipping out, but as the saying went (and probably still does), "hurry up and wait". Our kitchen equipment was hauled away; our duffel bags loaded on trucks and the company headquarters equipment departed. Also our tents and cots. Three days later we get the "loading up" order. I spent two nights sleeping on a shelf in the used-to-be kitchen.

On board the Alcoa Polaris I was assigned the job of "table waiter" in the officers mess. Not only did I get out of dirty details and calisthenics but also I probably ate better than the officers did. We stopped at Finchhafen, New Guinea, and at Hollandia. Between those two ports we could see a ship ahead of us on the horizon at nightfall.

During the night we passed it and the next morning we looked back and saw a column of smoke. The sailors told us we were lucky because that same ship had been torpedoed and sunk during the night. Hollandia was a large port and base and where General MacArthur had built the home that caused some ruckus over its fancy nature.

## Leyte – Philippine Islands

January 27, 1945 as we approached Leyte we passed some of the ships which had been hit by "Kamikaze" Jap pilots. They had a very simple technique for hitting their target: "Fly into it." The bridge areas of some ships were demolished. We pulled up to a dock at Tacloban and disembarked. The town was not important but it was selected as the place that General MacArthur began his "I shall return" march. Military traffic was heavy and tore up the streets, leaving them either muddy or very dusty. The trucks we rode on were so high that we could look straight into second story windows of buildings. At one point our convoy stopped where a dance party celebrating liberation, was going on. They saw us out there and stopped their dance and sang "God Bless America". This is still one of my most emotional moments ever, and I am writing this in 2005. After a 3-hour ride to our campsite we pitched pyramidal tents. After 9 months in the jungle, the fields of grass made this almost like home.

We got 6 replacements for the squad, raising our total to 16. Oliver Stigen, from Grasston, Wisconsin, was one of them. He was one of my buddies from then on. He had never spoken English until he entered school, so even though he was an American born native, he had a broad Swedish accent. We also got two new sergeants, Philips and a Bruce Sommers. Sommers was a professional soldier. He had fought in Spain during their Civil War and had been wounded by rifle, artillery, bayonet and grenade and survived all of them. He was a real charismatic leader and when he asked for volunteers for a patrol he got them – including me. We were near the north end of the island where the first division's to arrive had pushed the Japanese Army. Our function was to mop up any stray pockets of resistance. The 164th Regiment had a pretty tough time of it but our 132nd sector was not so bad.

On our patrols we would cut a piece of sugar cane – which looked like corn growing, and peel the outer layers off. When we chewed it, it was sweet, but it was like eating a piece of balsa wood. When we came across a Filipino village, the people would sometimes offer a meal to us. They would kill chickens and cook them for us. When you consider how short their food supplies were this meant a lot. Their bananas were ready to eat when they were green in color; others not ready were red. They came anywhere from 3 inches to one foot long. They had yellow ones too. The natives made candy out of sugar cane and coconut meat, which was very good. They also used sugar to make tuba; climb a palm tree, drill a hole in the coconuts, put in sugar and let it ferment, while it was still on the tree.



I never tasted it, but it was suppose to have an alcoholic kick. The natives were surprised we ate the meat of ripe coconuts. They also told us drink the milk of green coconuts only, or we would get diarrhea.

After our mopping up was ended we got work details on the beach. This amounted to unloading ships or stocking supplies. I don't know if it was planned but we ended up stealing food from the refrigerator ships because we got fed so little. We made frying pans out of cut down #10 cans, then cooked hamburgers and eggs. Fresh eggs that is – they were a rarity usually reserved for the officers. The shift was work eight hours and off sixteen. At one point they were going to go 4 on – 8 off, but that would have been dumb. It took us an hour to get from the camp to the beach to LCT to ship. That would have left only two hours effective production per shift. Even before I became an industrial engineer I could see that. We got a little (?) ticked off at the Quartermaster Corps and the Army Air Corps – they were wearing the newly developed combat boots while we still had high top shoes and leggings. Again, we had amphibious training practice on some small islands near Leyte.

#### Cebu, Philippine Islands

March 26, 1945. Cebu is a large island near the middle of the Philippines, in the Visayan group. We were told we would be hitting the island, south of Cebu City, after a heavy bombardment by air and sea. There would be a large Japanese force opposing us and the beach would be well fortified. Right on all counts. We loaded onto LST's (Landing Ship Tanks), the ones with the bow doors that open. The LVT's (Landing Vehicle Tracked) were going to disembark while the ship was still miles out in the stream. They did this by going down a ramp into the water. All the way from Leyte to Cebu the sailors kept telling us, "Don't worry, only one in ten hits the water wrong and doesn't come back up." Nice odds? As it turned out, I didn't hear of any of them not making it. The LVT would float and was powered by tracks, like on a tank. It was armored and armed with two fifty-caliber machine guns. The center was open and carried about twenty men. The back was hinged and swung down like a ramp.

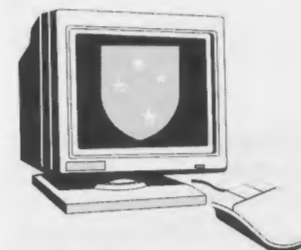
The bombardment was fantastic; the roar from the ships' guns was enough to deafen one. There were several destroyers, one cruiser and one carrier. But the most effective, to my way of thinking, were the rocket launching ships. Hundreds of rockets were fired in seconds and when they hit the beach, you could see the palm trees or the hills because of the smoke; Almost. We all felt nothing could survive – we were wrong. I still remember March 26, 1945 as the most beautiful day I had ever seen. It still ranks number one. My thought that day, while we circled the water was "what a shame to have to die today".

**EDITORS NOTE:** This article is an edited version of Bob Varner's wartime autobiography. This edition is part 2. Other parts will appear in subsequent issues of the Americal Newsletter.



The LVT's circled in the water until all of the craft that were supposed to be in that "wave" were organized and present. When all waves were ready, the show hit the road. I was in the second or third wave and when the LVT dropped the door/ramp, I went out and turned left. Elmer Pennington went right – he got no more than ten steps and hit a land mine. He died on the beach. The first wave went as far as palm trees and hit the deck. Why, I don't know. There was no opposition directly in front of us but they wouldn't move. The underbrush in some areas was burning and some of the native huts burned fiercely. They were very dry and so hot that you couldn't get within a hundred feet of them. I'm not a hero type but someone had to get up and move. So I did. For a while I thought to myself, "hey, you're not a scout, why are you leading the invasion?" eventually we hit the road and the word came to "hold up". The company that was supposed to lead got their men out front. We moved toward Cebu City along the coast highway for a few hours. Then the generals decided to consolidate.

(To Be Continued).



#### Stars and Stripes Museum and Library

By Jack Dragoni; Co. B, 2/1st Inf.

On November 9, 1861, soldiers of the Illinois 11th, 18th and 29th Regiments, after forcing the Confederates south, set up camp in Bloomfield, Missouri. Upon finding the newspaper office empty, they decided to print a newspaper for their expedition, relating the troop's activities. They called it The Stars and Stripes. This was the beginning of the "Soldier's Newspaper" 145 years ago.

Today, the Stars and Stripes Museum/Library is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Stars and Stripes newspaper through exhibits that tell the story of those who have served in America's wars. The Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and the current war in Iraq are represented in our displays. Poster size copies of the newspaper tie the newspaper stories to the items in the museum.

Special events are held at the museum to note D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, and other notable historic military events. This year the museum is planning a Vietnam Living History Day to remember those who served in Vietnam. This will take place on July 22, 2006, and we invite all veterans and their families to visit us and share in this remembrance.

Any organizations wishing to participate in this day of recognition may contact the museum/library for more information. Contact the museum at 17377 Stars and Stripes Way,

[redacted], Bloomfield, MO 63825;

[www.starsandstripesmuseumlibrary.org](http://www.starsandstripesmuseumlibrary.org)

#### Cover Comments

By Raymond Oglesby; 3/18th Arty.

It was a great surprise to see the cover of the Americal Newsletter for Jan-Mar 2006. The cover picture is gun #4 at LZ Cindy, Tra Bong, Vietnam. It is a 175mm self propelled howitzer. At LZ Cindy, we had two 8 inch and two 175 mm self-propelled howitzers providing fire support for Americal Headquarters in Chu Lai. I was a team leader in Fire Direction Control (FDC) for the four howitzers during 1970.

To my knowledge, the cover photo first appeared in the July 1970 issue of Americal magazine, page 18. A similar photo appeared in the September 25, 1970 issue of the Southern Cross newspaper, page 4, bottom left photo. Roger C. Hurlbutt was one of the photographers at LZ Cindy during 1970. I owe him a big thank you for his service.

#### Update on Flight Simulator

By Al Simms; 1/14th Artillery

If you do have Microsoft's FS2002 or FS2004 and especially if you were at or near Chu Lai this is going to be of interest to you. I have posted this add-on scenery for free download on my own website at <http://members.aol.com/asimmsjr/index2.html>.

This scenery covers the Chu Lai base it self including Ky Ha, LZ Bayonet and An Tan. It also includes some 50 surrounding LZs. Where I could do so it is accurate as to placement of objects and in many cases the objects are textured from actual photos. I think that veterans will find it an interesting trip back in time to the days of their youth.



**American Division Veterans Association**  
Dedicated as a Living Memorial to the Veterans of the Americal (3rd Infantry Division), United States Army

Dedication:  
The Americal Division Veterans Association is dedicated as a living memorial to all veterans of the Americal Division and is pledged to foster true American patriotism, social and welfare activities for all members, allegiance to the United States Government, and its flag, and to perpetuate the traditions and history of the Americal Division of the United States Army.

#### Oral History Completed

By Gary L. Noller; Co. B, 1/46th Inf.

Dr. Richard Verrone recently completed his oral history interview with me. The narratives began in October 2005 and ended in March 2006. The interviews utilized 13 sessions that covered 15 hours.

Verrone is the Oral Historian for the Vietnam Project at Texas Tech University. Veterans wishing to tell their history are invited to contact Verrone at [redacted] or [redacted]. I encourage you to help tell the true history of the Vietnam War.

#### Locator

Looking for the names of soldiers associated with **H Troop, 17th Cavalry**, 198th LIB, in 1969. Contact: [redacted]

Looking for **Ed Wenners**. I served with the **18th Engineer Battalion** and 39th Combat Engineers in Tuy Hoa, Nha Trang, Duc Pho, and Chu Lai; December 1966-67. Contact: Larry Barnes, [redacted]

Looking for anyone who served with **174th AHC**, Americal Division, Dolphin Flight, Duc Pho, July 1969-January 1970. Contact: William Conklin, [redacted], Sutherlin, OR 97479

Looking for connections to my unit: **1/14th Artillery**, July-Sept 1971. Contact: John Eubank, [redacted]

Looking for anyone who served with me in **5/46th Inf.**, 198th LIB. I would like to share information about what we did in Vietnam. Contact: George Jones, [redacted], or contact my son Eric at [redacted]

Looking for anyone who knew **Dave (Red) Leinere** in Vietnam. He served with Co. C, 4/21st Inf., 11th LIB. He is a friend of mine. Contact: Ron (Tank) Rotunno, [redacted]



# The Grunt Gourmet

## C-Rat Cooking Brings Back Memories

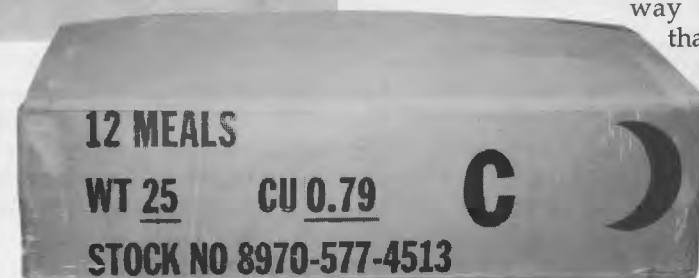
Edited By Gary Noller PNC

### "Doctored" C- Rations

Joe Schwartz, C/1/6, 198th LIB

Do any of you remember the way we used to doctor up the C-Rats? We took a can of the white bread, sliced it in thin slices, then take a can of "beef with spice sauce", and put some in the bottom of the bread C-Rat can. Then smear some cheese on a slice of bread, put it in the can, then more beef with spice sauce, the another layer of bread with cheese. Usually we would have enough bread and stuff to fill 2 of the short cans. We put the cans back into the C-Ration cardboard box, stuffed the little pack of toilet paper all around the cans, and set fire to the whole thing. It melted the cheese and gave it a sort of "smokey" BBQ flavor.

While we are talking about C-Rats, the powdered coffee creamer was so old it had hardened and you had to break it into little pieces, hoping it would dissolve. It usually just floated on the top and I wound up eating it as I drank. That is why I started to drink my coffee black. I didn't carry a canteen cup so I always heated my coffee water in a C-Rat can (one with the dry contents), with the lid bent over to form a handle. The C4 boiled water in a heartbeat. Since the can was not insulated,



I had to drink it fast before it got cold. The first sip always burned my lip. It was nice to take the chill off after sleeping in the rain all night. To this day I cannot stand lukewarm coffee. I have to have it hotter and blacker than the hinges of hell, and stronger than the sin of the devil.

### Pineapple Upside Down Cake

Joe Schwartz, C/1/6, 198th LIB

Take a can of pound cake and a can of fruit cocktail. Take the cake out of its can, then spoon out all the pineapple bits you can, and put them in the bottom of the cake can. Then put one of the cherries right in the middle of the bottom. Then put the pound cake on top of the pineapple and cherry, and pour the juice from the fruit cocktail over the cake and fill the can. Heat over C4 until most of the juice has cooked away. Dump onto a cardboard plate, with the pineapple and cherry on the top and enjoy. Goes well with C-Rat coffee!

### It's All In The Sauce

Dennis Loop, E Co. Recon/1/52, 198th LIB

Heinz 57 Sauce and hot sauce (sent from home to different guys) added a lot to the C-Rats. But they all had the same effect on me ...runs! That's partly how I came to walk drag, so I could do my business and have time to wait for anyone following us on the trail. The LRRP's were better, but those took a lot of water. No better

way to heat water than with C4! My favorite meal was a mixture of turkey loaf and eggs, trail spices heated with a small piece of C4.



### Don't Interrupt The Cook!

Doug Montgomery, D/1/6, 198th LIB

LTC Schwarzkopf, our battalion commander, came out when B Company got hit with a short round out of Fat City. Tommy Ray had broken into a Claymore and took some C4 and lit it to boil some water in his steel pot to make some grits. The Colonel told him it was great that he was keeping up his appearance by shaving. Tommy said, "Are you nuts? These are my grits". We went into Chu Lai once with our ration cards and bought hard liquor, then went to the port to trade with sailors for frozen chickens and steaks. They were E-3's and couldn't buy liquor and we sure couldn't get steaks. Best Bar-B-Q I ever ate.

### P-38's and B-52's

John Farley, H Troop, 17th Cav

We would take an empty C-Rat can, use the B-52 (Bottle Opener) to open slits in the can, then a few heat tabs or C4 and you had a stove. Just put your open can (opened with a P-38), that was the little can opener in the C-Rat box. Remember, no zip tops for cans back then! No one mentioned John Wayne Bars. It was the worst chocolate in the world. Even the dink kids would not eat them!

Since I was with a Cav unit we could carry a bit more stuff than you poor grunts. Remember the dry noodles we would buy off the gooks? We would mix them up with different C-Rats and stuff from home, sauces and also some meat if we ran into a deer (they were little) or a wild pig. How about fishing off the Batangan Peninsula with hand grenades?

Photos courtesy of Joe Schwartz and The Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University

### Heat Tablets Versus C-4?

John Schoenberger, C/1/46, 198th LIB

What were the blue tablets we were supposed to use for food? They began with a "T". Anyway, we could never get a supply so that's why we had to revert to C4. The one time we did have tablets it was pouring rain so three or four of us got together to make some coffee under the poncho liners. Those tablets burning with no ventilation drove us out! It was like tear gas as we all came out from underneath the poncho liners with eyes watering and us choking. I'm not sure what was worse, C-Rats or the liver shipped out to the field in the green camo thermos. We were promised five hot meals in a row one time and the first three were Liver! We called in and told them to forget the remaining two days.

### Some "Remember When's?" ...

(By some grunts just jawing)

My folks used to send me hot sauce for my C-Rats. A lot of guys got care packages from home. When I asked for the hot sauce, my mother sent my first care package. Remember the C-Rats: "Beans & Franks"? Well, the first can I took out of my first care package was Campbell's Beanies & Weanies. The guys told me my folks had sent me some more C-Rations! (Joe Schwartz)

I'm not sure I had a "favorite" C-Ration, but I know I hated the Ham and MF'ers! Tolerated the chopped ham & eggs, beef steak & potatoes and enjoyed the pound cake & peaches. However small that piece of C-4 was, it sure was an expensive way to heat C-Rats! (Doc De Frank)

You know some of us in the Arty used the C-Rats' peanut butter, mixed with mosquito repellent as a substitute for Sterno. We would mix the repellent with the peanut butter right in the tin, light it and use it to heat other C-Rats. I'll bet you grunts did the same! (Doug Herier)

Man, no self-respecting grunt is going to ruin a tin of peanut butter! You take the peanut butter and mix it with jam, forming a paste, then spreading it on your heated bread! Almost as good as mama's! (Buddy Sadler)

### REMF Cooking

Jim (Speedy) Walton, D Co., & HHC, 1/52, 198th LIB

After almost nine months in the field I got a rear job as battalion Ammo NCO in Chu Lai. That's where the real cooking began! We were in the old

## I'd call them a "Festival of Cholesterol and Alcohol."

MAG 12 bomb dump with the 5th/46th and 1st/6th. It was over five miles away from the brigade area and we couldn't get to the mess hall for breakfast or lunch and really didn't want to go for dinner – the "cuisine" was not great at the time.

We made a deal with the Mess Sergeant to go grocery shopping once a week. Bobby Cole, who was the Ammo NCO from the 5th/46th was from a family that owned a B-B-Q restaurant somewhere in the states. He could make anything taste like mom made it. In addition, we made a deal with the guy who drove the truck to the rations breakdown point and once a month, in exchange for a few MPC he would drop off a case of officer's mess steaks.

We made a B-B-Q sauce out of catsup, onions, Tabasco, of course, a little vinegar and garlic powder. We traded with the C-B's some beer and they came in with a cement mixer and poured a 16' by 16' concrete patio and gave us enough screen wire, corrugated tin and 2x4's to screen it in. A B-B-Q made from an old bomb casing and some dismantled SeaLand pallets, and we were good to go. We marinated the steaks over night and invited a group from all three battalion headquarters to a party.



Nobody declined our invitations and some would, by necessity, extend their stay's until morning. If I were to name our monthly gatherings I think I'd call them a "Festival of Cholesterol and Alcohol." Good that we were young then, it would kill us all now.

### Meal, Combat Individual (C-Ration)

was the name of field rations issued by the United States of America from World War II to the 1980s. Each ration consisted of a canned entree, a "B2 unit" containing cheese, crackers and candy, a canned dessert, and an accessory pack. The accessory pack contained a P-38 can opener, mix for a hot beverage, salt and sugar packets, plastic spoon, chewing gum, a pack of four cigarettes and several sheets of toilet paper. Each complete meal provided approximately 1200 calories (1200 kcal or 5000 kJ).

Due to health concerns, cigarettes were eliminated from the packages in 1975. C-rations were phased out in favor of the MRE beginning in 1983.



## Thirty-five years ago today

By William (Fez) Featherston

### To my old friends from the past:

Thirty-five years ago on Jan. 1, 1971 I returned home from that Oriental paradise that is called Vietnam. This is a happy and sad time for me.

I'm happy that I returned home in one piece and that I came back to this place we call home. This is a land of wonder, of good and bad. We truly do live in the best place on Earth. It's not perfect by a long measure but it's better than any thing else going in this world.

I'm happy that I saw my parents to the end of their days and that they knew their grandchildren. I'm happy for the life I've lived since I returned even if it lacked direction and purpose for quite sometime. I'm happy to have known the people that I have come into contact with through out my life. I'm happy that some are still here and I'm happy that some are gone but I'm glad that I have known them all.

I'm happy that I went to Vietnam. It gave me a moment in time that is very special to me and to all of us that were there. We are among the few people that have gone through such a special moment in a person's life. We who have been in a place of war and have been through combat have something that no one else has.

There is a bond between us few in this world will ever have.

Even though we have not seen each other for many years and may never see each other again, our moment of Life together is special and wonderful. We share camaraderie



like no one else- only soldiers know this. We shared the times of sheer terror and the funniest and the happiest times of our lives. We are so lucky to have this special time and experience in our lives. It has made us into what we are today.

My wife told me the other day that she realized that I am a part of history. That we are read about in history books that our grandchildren have or will study. We do hold a place in history. The history that they read will never be like the history that we hold in our minds or our hearts. I'm happy that our history has made me the person that I am today.

I'm sad for those that did not return and their families. I'm sad for the lives that they lost. They should have had lives like the ones that we have had.

I'm sorry to the ones who's lives that I took. I'm sorry that I was forced to take their lives of good times and bad times. I'm sorry to those that had no brother or sister to play with and to the parents that did not get to see their children grow and have children of their own.

I'm sorry that they didn't get to have any more moments of fun or sorrow. I'm sorry that they never got to do the things that they wanted to do or to have any more dreams. I'm sorry that they lost the joy of a child's laugh, or a parent's pride. I'm sorry that they didn't get to grow old.

I'm happy that I knew them because they have made me the man I am today.

*Editor's note: William Featherston served with the recon platoon of Co. E, 4/31st Inf., 196th LIB, in 1970-71.*

## The long wait continues

By Wendell Strode



USA South Vietnam  
LOVEGREN, DAVID  
EUGENE E4 BB  
1 9 6 9 / 0 3 / 0 1  
PORTLAND, OR  
A SINGLE LINE on  
the Prisoners of War  
(POW) and Missing  
in Action (MIA)

website listing is about all the information one would find on a young man that served in the same infantry company that I did in the Vietnam War. That single line provides the following information: He served in the United States Army (USA); He became a casualty in the Republic of South Vietnam; His name is David Eugene Lovegren; His rank was E4 or Specialist 4th Class; BB means David was "Killed in Action, Body Not Recovered"; The date of the incident was March 1, 1969; and David's hometown was Portland, Oregon.

David was a member of Delta Company, 1st of the 20th, 11th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division that operated out of Duc Pho, South Vietnam. For over 30 years I was able to block out the people I met and the experiences I had while with Delta Company. During the past few years, I began to think about and wonder what happened to Lasa, Kelly, Jason, Belcher, Hotch, Big Man, Doc Tietjen and several others whose faces I could see as plain as if it was yesterday. Sometimes those experiences would be relived in the middle of the night as I have awakened in cold sweats and with my heart beating much faster than normal. Sometimes it was just like being there in the rice paddies, the LZ's the villages, a cemetery, the bamboo, the jungle, and the darkness with sounds of night flares, mortar, a helicopter or someone yelling for a medic. You also remember the sound of a bullet going by your head and the immediate and recognizable sound of

what it hit- flesh, wood or dirt. That sound never totally goes away from those of us that experienced it first hand.

One face and one name that was replayed in my memory probably more than any other was Lovegren. He was representative of most all of us that were members of Delta Company. He was there to do the job he was trained to do. His goal was not to win a medal for heroic action, but to be as good a soldier as possible, to always be alert and ready for any action that would come our way, and to always do his part and never let one of his comrades down in such a way that injury or death would come to one of them. His ultimate goal was to come home to family and friends. David talked a lot about his family. He apparently had many, many friends back in Oregon as I believe he received more mail than any of the rest of us. I do not recall him having a steady girlfriend back home, but had many friends of which some were girls. He even gave some of the writing to some of us to cheer us up. Receiving mail was the highest boost of morale for those of us in Delta Company who spent most all of our time out in the boonies.

One very strong belief that we all had was that we could count on our comrades to come to our aid if we were under fire or get us out and back home should we be killed in action, we knew we would not be abandoned. This knowledge was a source of strength to all of us serving in the infantry and helped keep us going no matter what the circumstances. March 1, 1969, was a sad day for Delta Company. Seven of our infantry company were to be transported by helicopter

to a hillside to relieve some other members that were already there and serve as a long-range reconnaissance patrol for a few days. The transport helicopter picked them up and just as it was about to land, apparently there was a wind draft that caused the rotor to hit a boulder and the helicopter crashed. Five of our seven Delta Company members and all four of the helicopter crew were killed. There were only two survivors, and they were seriously injured.

David Lovegren was one of the five that was killed in the crash. Not long after the crash, another helicopter arrived to take the bodies to Duc Pho. The bodies of our five comrades were scattered down the hill. The hillside was too steep for a helicopter to land. It was decided that we would put them in body bags and have the helicopter lift them to the top of the hill. Three bodies had been brought to the top. The next one was David. After placing him on the carrier, the helicopter lifted off and the pilot was positioning the helicopter to come in from the other side (wind side) when some how some way, the lifting device dropped David's body. This was about 1,000 meters from the extraction point and it fell into a triple canopy jungle near the base of the hill. Delta Company hunted for three days, while also engaging the enemy, but was never able to find David's body. David is still listed as POW/MIA- Killed in Action, Body Not Recovered.

Each year there is a National POW/MIA Recognition Day. It is a day of reflection, meditation, and prayer.

*(Continued on page 30 )*

**Top Left High School PhotoSP/4 David Lovegren**





(Continued from page 29)

It is also a day to increase awareness that America still has prisoners of war and missing in action. Efforts continue on a daily basis by the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) to locate the remains of over 88,000 Americans that are still listed as POW/MIA. Almost every day additional remains are located and/or identified then returned to the family for proper burial.

The DPMO motto is "Keeping the Promise." Their vision is "Promise kept to those who serve in defense of this great country, to bringing them home, honor their sacrifices and keep faith with their fellow warriors and families. "Buried in the memory of every living member of Delta Company is the reminder that we did not keep the promise to David Lovegren. His family has never been able to bring closure and will not be able to until his remains are found and returned to them.

The DPMO wants and needs any information anyone may have on anyone listed as a prisoner of war or missing in action. If you are related to any of that 88,000 plus, the DPMO may need some DNA samples from you. Contact information for each branch of service can be located at [http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/family\\_support\\_info/sco\\_contact.htm](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/family_support_info/sco_contact.htm).

I ask and encourage each of you to help in any way possible with any contacts you might have in helping "Keeping the Promise." Delta Company, the family of David Lovegren, and the families of all of the 88,000+ that are listed as POW/MIA would greatly appreciate your help. ■

*Editor's note: Wendell Strode is Executive Director of the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY. His article was originally published in the NOV/DEC 2005 issue of America's Sports Car.*

## Two Americal General Officers Pass Away

by Gary Noller P.N.C.

Word has been received of the deaths of two general officers who led the Americal Division in Vietnam. BG (Ret.) Samuel W. Koster, Sr., 86, passed away on January 23, 2006 in Annapolis, MD. BG (Ret.) Theodore C. Mataxis, Sr., 88, passed away on March 8, 2006 in Greenwood Village, CO.



BG (Ret.) Samuel W. Koster, Sr.

**BG Koster** assumed command of the Americal Division in Vietnam upon its activation on October 25, 1967. He received the Americal's colors from GEN William C. Westmoreland. Koster was promoted to Major General the following day. He departed the Americal on June 3, 1968 to become the superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY.

Koster was accused of "dereliction in the performance of his duties" and "failure to obey lawful regulations" as a result of his investigation of the March 16, 1968 killings at My Lai. Charges were later dropped but Koster was demoted to Brigadier General. He retired from the Army in 1973 after 31 years of service.

[Editor's note: Thanks to MG (Ret.) Douglas O. Dollar and Les Hines for contributing to this article.]

Koster graduated from West Point in 1942 and served as an infantry officer in World War II. He was quickly promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel and commanded an infantry battalion in Europe. Among his awards are the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star.

He was a native of West Liberty, IA. He is survived by his wife and five children. His three sons are Army colonels.



BG (Ret.) Theodore C. Mataxis

**BG Mataxis** assumed the position of assistant division commander, maneuver, in July 1970. He was also a battalion commander in World War II and a regimental commander in the Korean War. He retired in 1972 after 32 years of military service.

Among his awards are two Legion of Merit awards, three Bronze Stars with V device, the Air Medal with V device and 17 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the third award of the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Mataxis is survived by his wife Helma and his children. His son, CPT. Theodore C. Mataxis, Jr. served as a platoon leader and company commander with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam.

## Vietnam Archive Receives Carlock's Choppers

By Gary L. Noller

The most enduring symbol of the Vietnam War is the helicopter. The sound of an overhead chopper sends chills up the spines of many Vietnam veterans. The unique whop-whop-whop of rotor blades is not duplicated in any other kind of mechanical device.

But the helicopter is not just a popular symbol to Chuck Carlock. To him it was the tool that he and others like him utilized to take the war to the enemy. It is an item of important historical significance and its role in the Vietnam War deserves to be preserved.

Carlock grew up on a farm near Cleburne, TX. At the age of 20 he dropped out of college and volunteered for the U.S. Army. He knew enough about the Vietnam War to know that he wanted to be a helicopter pilot.

Following his primary and advanced training at Ft. Wolters, TX and Ft. Rucker, AL, Carlock was sent to Vietnam. In September 1967 he began his assignment as a warrant officer with the 71st Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) of the Americal Division.

The 71st AHC flew two types of helicopters. The platoons flying utility/troop transports adopted the name Rattlers. The gun ship platoons were known as the Firebirds. Carlock became a Firebird pilot.

Carlock's skills were quickly put to the test. The year 1968 started out with heavy contact with the enemy. The soldiers of the Americal Division were soon swept up in the Tet Offensive. Carlock flew daily missions in support of infantrymen in the bush. It was a trying time for men on the ground and men in the air.

Carlock served with distinction and upon his separation from the Army he resumed his college education. He received a degree in accounting from the University of Texas-Arlington.

He fulfilled the requirements to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and began a successful career in business.

But he retained strong ties to his service as a chopper pilot. He associated with former aviators of the 71st AHC and helped tell their story in his book *Firebirds*. Along the way he collected military artifacts of the Vietnam War and reconstructed several Vietnam era helicopters.

He often displays his aircraft and collection of war artifacts at veterans' reunions and school visits. His display at the 1999 A D V A National Reunion in St. Louis is still remembered as a special highlight of the reunion.

But Carlock wants his collection to be preserved and to be seen by more people. He has donated items to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College in Hillsboro, TX. In January 2006 he donated four Vietnam-era helicopters to the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX.

Carlock's donation to the Vietnam Archive includes the following aircraft:

TH-55 Osage: used as a primary and secondary trainer. Not deployed to Vietnam.  
UH-1H Iroquois: used as a "Huey" troopship and utility helicopter.  
UH-1G Cobra: used as a gunship in close tactical support of ground forces.  
OH-58 Kiowa: used as a light observation helicopter.

He also donated a large amount of helicopter spare parts and other items from his extensive collection.

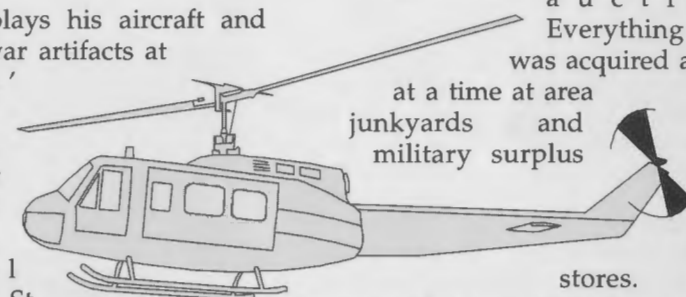
Carlock retains ownership of three other Vietnam-era helicopters. These include a C model gunship, a Huey troop ship, and an OH-6 Cayuse observation helicopter.

All seven choppers were painstakingly restored by Carlock at his home south of Ft. Worth. None of the aircraft were complete when he obtained them. In fact, the largest piece he obtained at one time was the front half of a Cobra gunship purchased at

auction. Everything else was acquired a piece at a time at area junkyards and military surplus stores. Many parts and pieces came from crashed aircraft and were often purchased by paying for them by the pound.

Carlock tells of "scooping up parts off the ground with a shovel" and finding "a whole stack of helicopter window glass tucked away in a barn". But he sometimes also had to pay an inflated price for a part he desperately needed. He recalls, "I had to buy a helicopter door from a guy in California. You don't even what to know what I had to pay for that one door."

The desire to preserve his collection and have his items seen and studied by others led Carlock to donate to museums. This was partly inspired by his interest in Civil War history. Carlock observes, "Civil War veterans kept their memorabilia and often formed associations to continue their interaction with one another. But it is a shame that when the Civil War veterans passed away most of their legacy was not preserved. It was thrown away or passed into the hands of professional militaria traders."





## VIETNAM NETWORK

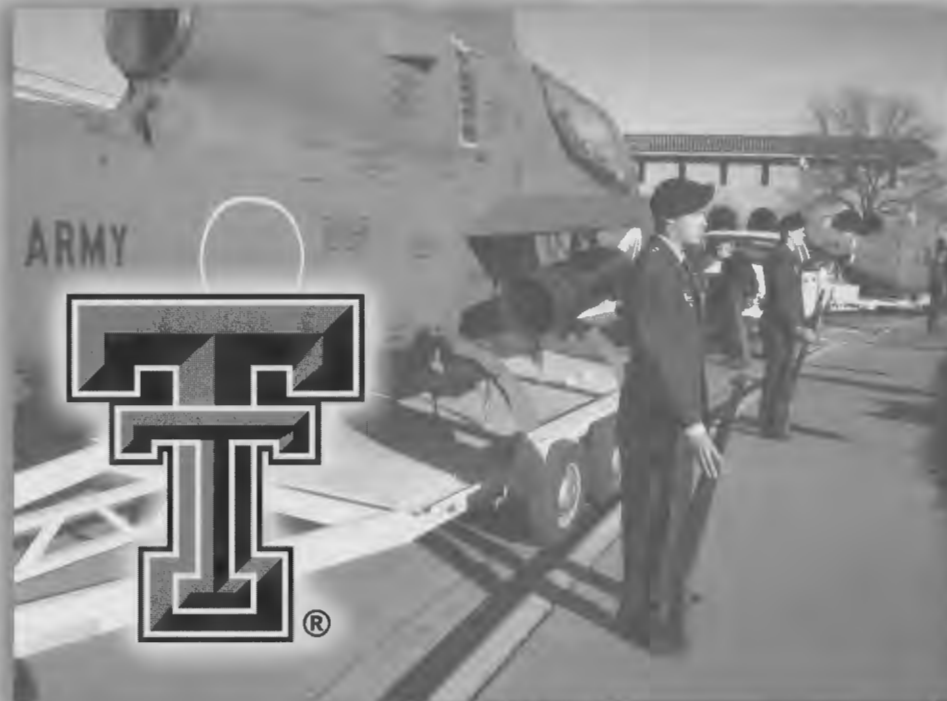
He further illustrates this concern with a story from another war. "I know a man who paid ten dollars at an estate sale for a partial belt of .50 caliber machine gun ammunition. The ammo was dented and damaged from being hit by shrapnel. A newspaper photo found with the ammo depicted a World War II veteran holding the ammo belt across his chest."

"The veteran was a machine gunner on an aircraft hit by enemy fire. The damaged belt was the veteran's reminder of how close he came to dying that day. But the artifact had no meaning to the veteran's daughter- so she sold it for ten dollars."

Carlock believes that Vietnam veterans should preserve their special items in a safe place and not let them end up in the trash or be sold at gun shows and flea markets. That is why he chose reputable organizations to receive and preserve his collection. He no longer worries what will happen when he is no longer around to take care of his collection.

*The Vietnam Archive at TTU accepts items of all sizes and shapes. Any veteran can create a collection at TTU by contacting Dr. Steve Maxner, 806-742-9010, [steve.maxner@ttu.edu](mailto:steve.maxner@ttu.edu).*

*Top to bottom, left to right:  
Cobra gunship with "sharksteeth" art work.  
Bubble-top training helicopter.  
Chester Gradenski, associate of Carlock; Kathy and Chuck Carlock, donors; Jon Whitmore, Rear view of Cobra.  
Huey "Rattler 10" utility helicopter.  
TTU ROTC honor detail.  
Donors, donees, and guests.  
TTU President Whitmore accepts gifts.*





## Still Serving: Colonel Terry Washam

By Gary L. Noller



Terry Washam began his military career as an infantryman in Vietnam. This experience forged a strong bond between him and those who fight to protect America's freedom. This bond is evident in his choice to be a medical care professional serving the needs of soldiers and veterans alike.

Washam was born in Lima, Ohio on 12 November 1950. He attended St Gerard's Elementary School and Lima Central Catholic High School. He was in the first draft lottery and drew number 66.

He received his draft notice in February 1970 and immediately proceeded to see an Army recruiter. He volunteered for a two-year enlistment and departed for the Army on 25 February 1970.

Washam received Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Ft. Bragg, NC and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as a mortarman at Ft. Jackson, SC. On 18 August 1970 he reported to Vietnam as a Private First Class (PFC). He was assigned to Co. C, 4/31st Inf., 196th LIB.

Co. C lost a point man and a slack man to a booby trap several days before Washam's arrival. As a result, he and a buddy rotated on alternating days as the new point man and slack man. The company worked off FSB West and FSB Siberia. He recalls, "By December 1970 I was the oldest soldier, time in country, in my platoon.

"A rear job at Hawk Hill came up and my Lieutenant allowed me to transfer to the assignment. In April 1970 the 196th LIB replaced the Marines further north so I moved to DaNang. I extended for 45 days to get an early out from the Army. On 30 September 1971 I left Vietnam and got out of the Army. I was very proud to be a soldier and even more proud to be a veteran."

In January 1973 Washam began courses at Ohio State University courtesy of the GI Bill. He graduated in March 1976. He continued on to Case Western Reserve University, School of Applied Social Science, and graduated as a Master of Science in Social Administration (MSSA) in May 1978. He met his future wife Marcia in January 1976. They married on 21 May 1977 and their first child Jennifer arrived on 20 February 1978.

Washam began a career with the Veterans Administration in November 1979. His professional work life has been primarily based at the Cleveland VA Medical Center serving in a variety of assignments. He is currently Chief, Center for Stress Recovery & Post-Deployment Services.

In September 1982 he enrolled in an Executive MBA Program at Cleveland State University and graduated with an MBA in May 1984. He and Marcia added three more children to their family. Geoffrey was born on 8 January 1980, Matthew on 24 December 1983, and their last child Mary, "a blessing from God", was born on 17 March 1999.

On 17 May 1982 Washam re-entered the Army. He accepted a direct commission as a second lieutenant Social Work Officer. Over the years he served in various capacities in the United States Army Reserve to include a two year command assignment with the 256th Combat Support Hospital in Brookpark, OH.

In May, 2002 he accepted the position as Reserve Component

Social Work Consultant. In this capacity, he serves as the senior social work officer in the Army Reserve. On 22 August 2005 he was mobilized for 365 days active duty and assigned to the Army Office of the Surgeon General (OTSG).

Washam is attached as a Liaison Officer to the VA Office of Seamless Transition in the Washington, D.C. area. His duties involve issues related to seriously injured veterans, the Post-Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) Initiative, and mental health issues among Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF) veterans.

The PDHRA will evaluate the health of veterans returning to the United States from combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. The early detection of behavioral health concerns of veterans will lead to quick intervention by the medical community.

Washam recently wrote, "The behavioral health impact on service members and veterans of OEF and OIF is still unfolding. The military and caregivers have learned much about combat stress reactions and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) since Vietnam. The military has aggressively employed combat stress control units and teams in both OEF and OIF with key objectives of prevention and promoting resiliency among service members."

He will be credited with 30 years of military service in May 2006. He reflects on his service, "Over the past 30 years I have seen many changes within the Army. But war fighters, to include the young soldiers of today, have remained the same.

"A timeless commitment to Duty-Honor-Country, dedication to "mission first," selfless service and "buddy care" are as alive today as 36 years ago in Vietnam. The men and women in uniform today make me extremely proud to still be in uniform and a part of the U.S. Army....a soldier."

## Colonel Clyde Murray: Still serving

By Gary L. Noller



"I enjoy wearing the uniform and contributing whatever I can to the military." This statement is a plain and simple summary of COL Clyde Murray's 38-year career in the United States Army.

Murray was born in Brooklyn, NY on August 21, 1948. He and his family moved to Long Island when he was five years old. He went to high school in West Islip.

After high school he enrolled in college. He did not stay in school and was drafted in May 1968. He received basic training and advanced infantry training at Ft. Jackson, SC. After passing a selection process Murray advanced to the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Academy at Ft. Benning, GA.

Upon completion of NCO school he was promoted to SGT E-5. He remained at Ft. Benning to attend Jump School. After completing airborne training he was assigned to Ft. Dix, NJ as a drill sergeant.

In early June 1969 Murray arrived in Viet Nam as an 11B infantryman and processed through the Americal welcome center at Chu Lai. He was assigned to Co. C, 5/46th Infantry, 198th Lt. Inf. Bde. based at LZ Gator. From there it was off to the boonies.

"Our Area of Operations (AO) stretched from the rice paddies by the South China Sea to the mountains further inland," he recalls. "I was a squad leader for nearly four months and was then promoted to Staff Sergeant (SSG). I also moved up to the platoon sergeant position at that time."

Murray went to DaNang to attend the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force Language School and to receive training in the Combined Action Program (CAP). He returned to his platoon and received an appointment to "CAP 141". He worked with a squad of Marines and the local Popular Forces (PFs) not far from LZ Minuteman. His platoon also performed reconnaissance and security operations at My Lai 4 during the investigation of CPT Medina, LT Calley, and SGT Mitchell.

Upon his return from Viet Nam in 1970 Murray took advantage of the GI Bill and went back to college. He earned a degree in Aerospace Technology from the State University of New York. "One of my neighbors talked me into joining the Army reserves in 1970," he states. "I have not had a break in service for almost 38 years now."

In 1971 he earned a promotion to the rank of Sergeant First Class (SFC) and was assigned as a Senior MOS instructor. In 1978 he decided to go to Officer Candidate School (OCS) and in August 1979, at the age of 31, he obtained a commission as a Second Lieutenant (2LT) in the Transportation Corps.

He has had numerous assignments over the years to include six years as a company commander and staff training officer. Murray volunteered for Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm in September 1990 and served at a movement control agency. He returned from active duty in July 1991 with the rank of Major.



In 1993 he became an Assistant Inspector General (IG) and performed that function for three years. He then assumed the duties as the Executive Officer (XO) of a transportation battalion. He later attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) undertook the role as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at Hofstra University. In August 2001 Murray accepted a role in the headquarters of the 77th Regional Readiness Command. "One month later I was activated as a result of 9-11. I coordinated logistics with the 9-11 recovery operations," he states.

In February 2005 he received a promotion to Colonel and now serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff G-8, Comptroller. As a result of his promotion to Colonel he is allowed to go past the 28 years of commissioned service requirement. Murray will be allowed to serve until his mandatory retirement date of 30 August 2008.

Murray observes, "There are very few Vietnam veterans left in either active duty or the Army Reserves. I have friend working in the G-1 at the Pentagon who believes that I may be one of the last remaining Vietnam veterans when I retire in 2008. It is possible that I may be the last soldier to wear the Americal patch."

"I often get asked about the patch on my right shoulder," he continues. "I am extremely proud to tell people about the Americal Division. Although the patch is rarely seen today it represents what was probably the biggest division during the Vietnam War.

"I have seen the military change in many ways; the most important is the advancement in technology across the board. Today's soldiers have all the necessary tools to accomplish their mission and they are highly trained."

Murray's civilian occupation has been in law enforcement for the past 25 years. He is the Commanding Officer of the District Court in Suffolk County NY. His interests include boating, golf, and flying his own plane on weekends.



By Gary L. Noller



## 46th Infantry Torchlight Ceremony and FSB Mary Ann Memorial Service

The current day cadre of the 46th Infantry conducted the 46th Infantry Regimental Torchlight Ceremony on March 27. The nighttime ceremony is held at Ft. Knox, KY and features the lighting of one torch for each of the 18 campaigns fought by the regiment in World War II and Vietnam. The 1/46th and 2/46th are basic training battalions and are commanded by LTC Timothy W. Quillin and LTC Roger L. Shuck, respectively.

COL (Ret.) Clyde J. Tate, commander of the 1/46th Infantry in 1971, is Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. He addressed the gathering on behalf of the veterans of the unit. COL (Ret.) Richard Carvell, commander of the 1/46th Inf. in 1970, was also in attendance.

The Torchlight Ceremony has been an annual event since 1987. The presentation concludes with the firing of three volleys, the sounding of Taps, and the piping of Amazing Grace.

Veterans of 1/46th Infantry participated in the 11th annual FSB Mary Ann reunion and memorial service. The event remembers the costly attack that occurred on March 28, 1971. Larry Pistole, a member of E/1/46 in 1971, displayed photographs, awards, and citations belonging to CPT Richard V. Knight and LTC William P. Doyle.

Knight commanded Co. C, 1/46th Inf. and was killed outside his command bunker during the battle for Mary Ann. Doyle was battalion commander and was wounded several times while defending the tactical operations center (TOC). Doyle survived his wounds but died of a heart attack in 1984 at the age of 52.

The Torchlight Ceremony and FSB Mary Ann reunion and memorial service are scheduled for Ft. Knox again on March 27-28, 2007.



**CPT Richard V. Knight, a West Point graduate, died while directing fire from his command bunker. Knight continues to be highly regarded by the soldiers he once led.**



**Lanny Gilliland displays a framed photo of CPT Knight and Knight's Airborne School diploma. The display was one of many prepared by Larry Pistole, E/1/46 Recon veteran.**



**SFC (Ret.) William Walker and his wife Shannon attended this year's Infantry Ball at Ft. Knox, KY. They have hosted the FSB Mary Ann reunion and memorial service for 11 years.**



**LZ Mary Ann**



**Bill "Skidrow" Walker opens FSB Mary Ann reunion while Lanny Gilliland looks on. Both are veterans of C/1/46 and were on the firebase the morning of the attack.**



**One of the 18 torches lit during the Torchlight Ceremony burns in front of the 46th Infantry Regiment plaque at Memorial Grove, Ft. Knox, KY.**



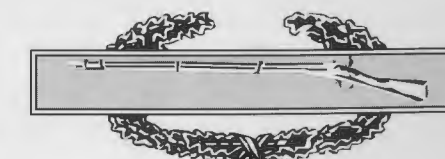
**During the opening ceremony a candle is lit for each of the 30 soldiers who perished on March 28, 1971. Approximately 85 others were wounded in the attack.**



**Cadre of today's 1st and 2nd battalions, 46th Infantry, perform the Torchlight Ceremony and gather with 46th Inf. Veterans to participate in the FSB Mary Ann memorial service.**



**SGT Elmer Head went from Platoon Sergeant to Platoon Leader to Company Commander in a few hours as a result of the heavy blow sustained by C/1/46.**





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# Application For Membership

## Americal Division Veterans Association

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### Eligibility for Membership

Membership in the ADVA is open to all officers and enlisted personnel who have served with the 23rd (Americal) Infantry Division in an assigned or attached status during the following periods of service:

World WarII	1942-1945
Korean War	1954-1956
Vietnam War	1967-1973

Eligibility includes those who served with Task Force 6814 (WWII) and Task Force Oregon (Vietnam). Branch of service is immaterial.

### DEDICATION



The ADVA is dedicated as a *LIVING MEMORIAL* to all veterans of the Americal Division and is pledged to foster true American patriotism, social and welfare activities for all members, allegiance to the United States Government, and its flag, and to perpetuate the traditions and history of the *Americal Division* of the United States Army.

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Please enclose dues: 1 year \$15  
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